

The Glory of God

by Leonard Ravenhill

The sermon emphasizes the importance of seeing God's glory and experiencing transformation through beholding His majesty and holiness.

Duration: 56:49

Scripture: Exodus 33:14-34, Hebrews 4:11

Topics: "Glory Of God"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of seeking intimacy with God and experiencing His glory. He refers to the story of Moses asking God to show him His glory and how God responded by proclaiming His mercy and grace. The preacher also mentions the concept of living on borrowed time and how America is in a similar situation. He encourages believers to make the best of their journey with God, even if it is not always easy. The sermon concludes with a reminder that knowing the word of God helps us see His glory and emphasizes the importance of boldness in the Christian faith.

Transcript

Now, here's Moses talking, let's go to verse twelve. And Moses said unto the Lord, isn't that lovely? It means he's sitting and having a conversation with the Lord. Not with an archangel or some other being, but with the Lord.

The Lord we sang about tonight, immortal, invisible, God only wise. And yet man talks with God. In verse twelve, Moses said unto the Lord, See thou seest unto me bring up this people, and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me.

Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, I know thee by name, and that thou hast also found grace in my sight. Now therefore I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight, and consider that this nation is thy people. And he, God, said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

Now, if you wonder what rest is, it's answered for you in that verse. Rest is the presence of God. Never being afraid, knowing He's with us, He's guaranteed He'll never leave us or forsake us.

And because of that we have rest. We can lean back, as it were, on God. My presence shall go with thee.

And then this other wonderful verse, the end of verse 17, or in verse 17, The Lord said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken, for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name. Do you believe God knows you by name? Hmm? You say, so-and-so talks with the Queen of England, and when he goes in he doesn't bow and say, Your Excellency, Your Majesty, he says, Hi, Elizabeth. He'd be a bit nervous to do that.

But isn't it wonderful that God knows us by name? I know thee by name. That's what I want the Lord to do, know me by name. I know thee by name.

And He said, Moses said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory. Verse 2 of chapter 34 says, Be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto the Mount Sinai, and present thyself to me there in the top of the mount. Now, this is a hazard, isn't it? He'd done that in the 32nd chapter.

What happened? While he was up there, they fooled around, they made a graven image, they got drunk, they got naked, they did every crazy, willful thing to disobey God. And now God says, Now come up on the mountain again. And verse 5 says, The Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord.

And the Lord passed by him, and proclaimed the Lord. The Lord, merciful, gracious, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and in truth. So he got up the mount with God.

Look at verse 29. Oh, pardon me, look at verses 6 and 8 first. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed the Lord.

The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth. And verse 8, Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth and worshipped. In chapter 32, and verse 22 it says, And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my Lord wax hot.

Now he's talking there to Moses. And now knows the people that they're set, and they're full of mischief. Okay, I'm coming back into this chapter now, into chapter 34 for this reason.

The Lord passed by. What had he requested? He'd request, Show me thy glory. And now he's gone up a second time up on the mountain.

You know, we kind of look at that as if it took a helicopter ride, or as if it stood on an escalator. Instead of that, he has to struggle up the mountain. And I identify that with that word in the fourth chapter of Hebrews, when it said that we're to labor to enter into rest.

Nothing comes easy in the Christian life. Everything is a wrestling, everything is a striving. We've got the world, the flesh, the devil against us.

And Moses here now has gone the second time onto the mountain. If I remember right, he was about 80 years of age. He must have been pretty fit.

It doesn't say how long he stayed there, how long it took the glory of the Lord to pass before him. But the Lord was merciful and gracious. I believe in this instance, while there's no time factor given, if all the glory of God went past him, he could have been there for weeks.

I believe he was transfixed. Transfixed means motionless. I believe he stood awed.

I believe he gazed at the majesty of God. Something that we've totally forgotten in our day. The awful majesty of God.

As I said last week, you should read at least once a week, the 40th chapter in Isaiah, which tells you that God made the stars, he counts them all, and he knows every one of them by name. That the nations are as a drop in a bucket. That he has all power and all authority.

You see, our God is so small, and we have such a small concept of God, the world outside isn't in any way staggered by what we are or who we are. The Lord passed by him. You know, if you put it into the common vernacular, I think Moses had a bit of a nerve to say to God, show me thy glory.

Boy, if I'd taken a stick and divided the Red Sea, I'd thought I'd seen all the glory I needed. If I hit a rock and it split open and it followed the nation wherever they went, I'd say, look at the magic. Hey, I did that.

Remember when I did it that morning? You were all thirsty and I did it. Good old me, Moses. But instead of that, he's awed.

He bowed down and what did he do? He worshipped. And you know what? If ever you see the glory of God, you'll worship. He bowed down.

But Moses was alone. Aaron wasn't with him. The highest moments of your life will be when you're alone in worship and in adoration.

They'll surpass all the preaching you ever heard. Unless you heard mine, but apart from that. We don't see the glory of God.

I've said to you often, when you tiptoe out of the sanctuary, because you've been overwhelmed with the mercy and the glory and the majesty and the holiness of God. People going to church dirty, sing about Him and go out dirty. You can't do that if you see God.

He goes on a mountain. He climbs to the height. Show me thy glory.

Lord, I've seen your miracles. Show me yourself. I want to get intimate with you.

That's what it means. Show me thy glory. And the Lord passed by him and proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious.

I think all the history of Israel must have gone past him like you watch a film go, when God said that to him. Remember my mercy. I could have blotted you out with your transgressions.

I could have destroyed you when you made a golden calf. Instead, I extended my mercy. I extended my mercy.

I'm well past 70 years of age. People tell me sometimes I'm living on borrowed time. The only time I borrowed was a watch tonight, because I didn't have one.

I borrowed time. But anyhow, living on borrowed time. America's living on borrowed time.

We passed the safety line years ago. We're heading for hell as quick as any nation on earth. But if we saw the glory of God one Sunday in every church in America, we'd shake the country for God the next week.

Everything else would wither. Everything else would perish. All our values would change.

Here he is on a mountaintop. I looked at the seventh chapter. Don't look now.

The seventh chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. And that second, about the second verse, where that marvelous young man, the first martyr in the church, possibly not more than 19 years of age, Stephen. And he says, the God of Abraham appeared to our father.

The glory of God appeared to Abraham where? In a hell hole called Mesopotamia. A place that was full of idolatry. A moral dung heap.

And yet God appears to a man. There's no system. There are no priests.

There are no altars. And yet the God of glory unveiled himself to a man in a hell hole like that? You know, maybe the God of glory has appeared in some cells of those poor prisoners in Russia today more than in our life. We're so busy we can't, we haven't time to wait, have we? Oh, we say, be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Sure, that's a command. Be filled with the Spirit. There's another command.

Be still and know that I am God. It's in the 42nd Psalm when the seas are roaring and the mountains are falling. Paraphrased, I guess, again by Isaac Watts, Let mountains from their seats be hurled down to the deeps and buried there.

Convulsions shake the solid earth. Our faith shall never yield to fear. But in a shaking world where everything is chaos, everything that's orderly will become disorderly, then God says, be still and know that I am God.

Everybody else is going mad. Christians today think if they knock on doors till their fingers bleed and give out sacks until they're dropping in the shopping mall, they've pleased God. Let me tell you, I believe you could win a hundred souls to Jesus Christ every hour on the hour in the day and still disappoint Him.

Because that's service in the outer court. God says, Aaron and his son shall minister unto me. Come on now.

I know you nod your heads and say, I'm right. How much ministering have you done to the Lord today? You said your prayers, but it was request, wasn't it? Do this, do that, do the other. Again, prayer is our preoccupation with our needs.

Praise is preoccupation with our blessings. Worship is preoccupation with God. Just God Himself.

I put that in the back of my Bible. I think I did anyhow. But I brought the wrong Bible.

But it begins with my goal is God Himself, not joy, not peace, not even blessing, but with thee my God. Moses was confronted and he saw the glory of God. And he appeared where? In Mesopotamia.

Again, I said I prayed over this today. Mesopotamia is about the most corrupt place on the earth. It was full of idols.

It was full of immorality. It was lawless. It was godless.

And yet Almighty God comes to one man, only one saint, maybe in a whole nation of a million people, and He reveals Himself to that one man. You say, why does He reveal Himself to me? Because you don't stay still, that's why. You give Him a shopping list and get up and go out and your prayers are over.

I wish I had some more details about this. I could fill it in by imagination, but I won't. Moses standing there and God, the God of glory, the God of the universe, unveils His majesty, unveils His glory.

Isn't this man speechless? Why does He bow down to the earth? Because He can't stand there. Because He can't keep looking, the glory is so great. And He bows Himself to the earth, and not only bows Himself to the earth, He worships.

And there's only one way you can worship, and that is to worship God in spirit and in truth. God is a spirit, I'm a spirit. My spirit must connect with God's spirit.

Most of our religion today, in Christian centers, it's soulish, it's not spiritual, it's soulish. That's why kids like to go to these rock concerts. Because it's soulish, it stirs the soul.

And they go out and sin and do all the devilish things they want to do. There's no change there. You can't glorify God, you can't have a vision of the glory of God and turn around and be mean to your wife or children.

Oh, this is a marvelous scripture. But I've got to link it up with something else here. Go to the second... Where are we? 2 Corinthians.

Where do I want to go? 2 Corinthians 3, I guess. And... 2 Corinthians 3, 18. I think it is.

I'll get there in a minute. Now, this is bringing it right down to earth, where we live. 2 Corinthians 3 and verse 18.

That we all with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed by the same image from glory to glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord. Now, he's talking about us. He's talking about the Corinthians that got lost in vanity.

And they drifted away from fundamental truths. They were turning to other things. But he says, we all with open face.

Phillips translates that, we without veils on our faces. I didn't read the scripture. I should have gone on there and read where Moses came down the mount and his face so reflected the glory of God, he had to wear a veil.

Now, in the 32nd chapter, when he comes down the mountain, he's blood-red with anger. God is angry. And he's angry because he's in tune with God.

How often do you get angry? Are you in tune with the Holy Ghost? When the Spirit of God is offended, are you offended? Are you just one buying and selling and eating and drinking and all the normal things that the man next door does? I'm supposed to be a spiritual man. I'm supposed to be in tune with the infinite. I'm supposed to be regulated by the Holy Ghost, not the traditions of my setup or denomination.

Moses stood there until the very radiance of God shone on him. Remember the Mount of Transfiguration? Well, the Mount of Transfiguration was not Jesus reflecting the glory of the Father. It was the inherent

qualities of Jesus Christ.

It wasn't a spotlight from heaven. It was the holiness and purity of God in him, being God, that flashed out. But I noticed that they never fell down and worshipped him.

They fell down and worshipped him at the beginning of the Revelation because he was a different Christ in one sense. He'd accomplished his mission. He'd led captivity captive, he'd given gifts unto many, taken the hinges off the gates of hell.

He destroyed the power of the devil. Do you think the church will ever enter into that? I hear people saying, Lord, rebuke the devil. He rebuked him 2,000 years ago.

Come on. Why don't we enter into what he did? There's only one reason that the world is going to hell tonight, and that is the unbelief of the church. Now use your light.

We do not believe God. It's not the sinners that don't believe him. We don't believe him.

We have a partial belief, not a full belief. But when they saw Moses come down from the mount, they couldn't gain from him. I was going to say, I have a poem.

I had it somewhere. I've got part of it here, written by Frieda Handley-Allen, which I think explains the thing very beautifully. She's talking about you and I going into the holy place, not being in the altar court, not going into the holy place, but really going into the holy of holies.

That's the only place that God came. In the altar court, there was daylight. In the holy place, in the holy of holies, or in the holy place, there was candlelight, a seven-branched candlestick.

In the holy of holies, there was no light. It was pitch black. And unless there she kind of glory came, there was no light.

You know, when men put Jesus Christ to death, they put out the light of the world. The only light in the world tonight is the word of God. Thy word is the lamp to my feet.

That's to guide me in what to do. And the light to my path, that to me is, the light is the word of God. The lamp to my feet is the word of God.

And the lamp, to me, is the word of prophecy that tells me not just what to do, but where to go. And the only light in the world tonight is the word of God, plus the glory that's reflected in your personality and mine. Romans 12, 1 and 2 says, present your body a living sacrifice unto God, and be not conformed to this world.

Or as J.B. Phillips puts it so well, don't let this world press you into its mold. Come on, is it doing that? The style of clothes you wear, the style of life you live, is the world system pressing me into its mold? Do you feel unhappy if you go to church and you have to design a dress on? Or the ladies shoes? Is the world pressing us almost unconsciously into its mold? Be not conformed, but be ye transformed. It's the same word used of Jesus, be transfigured.

Be transfigured by the renewing of your mind, having the very mind of God himself given to us. Peter Allen says this, Within the veil did this beloved I portion, within the secret of thy Lord to dwell, beholding Him, until thy face is glory, thy life is love, thy lips is praise shall tell. Within the veil, for only if thou gazest upon

the matchless beauty of His face, canst thou become a living revelation of His great heart of love, His untold grace.

Within the veil, His fragrance poured upon thee. Remember the woman that washed the feet of Jesus with tears, and then put that wonderful ointment on, then dried His feet with the hair of her head. What happened? The fragrance she poured out on Him came back on her.

Do you know why you find prayer so dry? Because you don't worship. Do you know why you come out of the place of prayer the same as you went in? Because you don't gaze on His holiness, on His majesty, on His sufficiency, on His glory. And then, having tasted something of the other world, you come back into this world with a radiance that's totally un-understandable to the world.

Be not conformed, be transformed. Within the veil, His fragrance poured upon thee. Without the veil, that fragrance shed abroad.

Within the veil, His hands shall tune the music which sounds on earth the praises of thy God. Within the veil, thy spirit deeply anchored. Thou walkest calm above a world of strife.

Within the veil, thy soul with Him united shall live on earth the resurrection life. Now that's where we should be living now, not after we die and shuffle off this mortal coil, if you want to be Shakespearean. But even now, I should be.

Not I'm going to reign with Him, I should be reigning. If I'm not reigning with Him, then the world's reigning in me. Either I have total dominion by the grace of God over the world of flesh, the devil, or the picture is reversed.

I think there's a very wonderful verse here. We all with open face. We don't have to veil our faces, do we? I've quoted you before, that little daughter, nine-year-old daughter of the man who preached that hellfire sermon that still preaches.

Sin is in the hands of an angry God, Jonathan Edwards. And his little nine-year-old daughter says, people mock my daddy, he's so gravel-voiced, he's so serious when he preaches about God in heaven. What is the most serious to preach in the gospel? Paul says more than once to Timothy, be sober, be sober, be sober, the end of the world is coming.

Dear Lord, if it was coming 2,000 years ago, where are we tonight? Is the church sober? Go down the road and see them on the other end of the family circle outside the church. They'll be playing ping-pong and fooling as though the world was going to happen. I said before, if you take the view of the politicians, Mr. President, and I'm glad he's getting better, he says there's a holocaust coming up because fire's going to come and destroy the nation.

But supposing you don't believe what the politicians say. The word of God says Armageddon's coming and a system is going to come to destroy a third of the world's population, that should make us a nightmare. If we eat any gumption at all, if we're a reflection of spirituals as we think we are, both at last days and every church in town would have a prayer meeting 24 hours a day, at least in Rome in the church.

If I ever get into a fellowship and have control of it, there'll be a room open 24 hours a day. And they'll expect you to keep up that 24-hour prayer at that hour. Does the devil go to sleep? You go to bed tonight,

it happens to this Friday night.

Folk don't have to work tomorrow. They'll be at the hellhole, the dung houses, till 12, 1, 2, 3 in the morning. Many of them don't start till about 2 or 3. They go to these nightclubs, night spots.

The church doesn't, every church near in town will be locked up tonight by about 10 o'clock. If the fire department did that, we'd raise hell about it, wouldn't we? If the hospitals did that, we'd be disgusted. You can't do it.

I think I told you last week, two men came into my office and the first thing they said, is anybody real? Do you remember that? Because you were there, you're one of them. That put you on the spot, Jacob. But anyhow, he doesn't mind, I know him.

I straighten him out every day, but he's twisted the next day. But anyhow, just like Jacob, just like Jacob in the Scriptures. No, he's really coming on.

I love this man very, very much. He's my new neighbor. And if he doesn't buy that house, you're in trouble.

But they asked the question, the other brother, I think, would you ask the question, is anybody real? I changed that, and I, sure I'd break up. My question is, does anybody care? Do we really care that the world is going to hell? Do we want to go on Sunday and be nice and sweet and have a nice little time and get a hug and a kiss, and then go out to a perishing world, exactly the same? You can't do that if you gaze on His holiness. The more you see His holiness, the more you see corruption in the world.

The more you see His integrity, the more you see of the deception and falseness of the systems that we live in the church as well as outside of the church. We all with open face, beholding as in a glass, the glory of the Lord God, changed from image, from glory to glory. Or it says emphasized, that's a good Bible to read, reflecting the glory of God into the same image we are being transformed from glory to glory.

So I showed you quickly there, the glory of Moses, he had to drape his face because people couldn't dare to see the reflected majesty of God in him. And I'm supposed to live reflecting we beholding in a mirror. You can't look on God.

And so you have to hold a mirror and see Him that way. We see His glory in the word of God. The more you know of the word of God, the more you know of His majesty, the more you know of His glory.

Look at Acts chapter 3 for a minute or two here. The more I read of this book, the more trouble I get. Sorry, it's Acts chapter 4. Acts chapter 4, verse 13.

Now when they saw the boldness, now they say when they saw the coldness. It says in the same chapter, I guess, how these Christians love one another. Now they see how these Christians shove one another.

Verse 13 says, Now when they saw the boldness, who are they? Well, look up the chapter a bit further back. Verse 5, It came to pass on the morrow that their rulers, they were the rulers and the elders and the scribes, Amos the high priest and Caiaphas another high priest, and that's illegal anyhow. The Jews weren't allowed to have two high priests and they had them.

And John and Alexander and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest would gather together in Jerusalem. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, they conceived, they perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men and they took knowledge of them that the glory of Jesus Christ was

shining in them. The glory of Jesus shining in Moses up on the mountain is by himself.

These men are in a hell hole. These men have been to prison. And yet the glory of Jesus Christ is there, though they have a prison sentence hanging over them.

You don't need ideal situations to get the glory of Jesus Christ. All you need to do is to be in his will. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, they perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men.

Isn't that something? Just imagine those men in your room didn't have a PhD between them. Didn't have a bank account between them. Unlearned, unusual, unwanted.

But boy did for long the world knew they were around. They had no backing company. They had no bank accounts.

No newsletters. Isn't that terrible? Don't mention that please around here, but anyhow. When we all get to heaven, wouldn't it be wonderful not getting a junk mail from all these big evangelists.

You tell the evangelists when you get to heaven, very clearly you know the streets are made of gold they'll be digging the streets up. I'll be looking for you. Isn't it a paradox this book? If you want to go up, go down.

If you want to gain, throw everything you have away. Lose your life, you'll find it. Keep your life, you'll lose it.

If you ascend, you'll be humiliated. If you humble yourself, you'll be exalted. If you want to be a somebody, be a nobody.

So foolish, isn't it? You better nod your head because you know it's true anyhow. When they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they took knowledge of them. That gets under my skin, it gets in my heart.

They took knowledge of them. Go back and see why they should be so happy. Verse 1 They spake to the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them.

Now you've got the whole load on your back. The priests, the captain of the temple, the Sadducees. And then over in verse 5 you have the rulers and the scribes.

Verse 6 Annas the high priest doing care for us and John and Alexander and many as were the kindred of the high priest they were gathered together. And when they had set them in the niche, fancy facing that gang, how would you feel? Huh? If you were rushing into the high court and you saw all the big shots there and you knew that the life was hanging on a thread, would we have boldness? When they saw the boldness of Peter and John, verse 3 says they laid their hands on them and put them in hold for the next day for it was evening time. How many of them which heard the word would believe, glory to God, isn't that preaching? That when you lock the preachers up the revival still goes? If your revival isn't working in your church get the cops to, sheriff to come and arrest the preacher.

Stick him in jail and see if he comes round. You know, the tragic thing about us today is the world couldn't put up with us. It couldn't put up with the early church.

The early church was going that way, the world was going that. Now we're running side by side and God knows, nobody knows. There's no line of demarcation.

We're as greedy as the world, as fashionable as the world. We want a place in the sun with our jealousy, our envy, our pride. These men were destitute of all that.

Why? Because they gazed on the risen Christ of God and even though they'd been in jail for days it didn't brush off. They couldn't be intimidated no matter what you said to them. They'd seen Jesus.

And ungodly men said, there's only one reason why these men are like this. They liked their master. We couldn't intimidate their master.

We tried to threaten him. We tried to destroy him. We pushed him over the edge.

I tried to push him over the edge of the cliff and he was as calm as could be. We got men to scream for his death and he was still the prince of peace. He was still placid.

And these men have the same kind of spirit in them. They didn't just take notice of them. Look what it says in the middle of verse 13.

They marveled. They marveled They marveled. They were astonished.

They were dumbfounded. They were saying under their breath what in God's name is the secret of these men. They're no better than when we put them in jail.

Their hair hasn't changed a different color. They're not six inches taller. They don't look stronger.

They had a living intimate relationship with the risen son of God. That's why. Preachers argue about what happened in the upper room.

No argument about it. Common sense. What does it say? At the end of Luke where it says that when they saw Jesus risen what did they do? They went roaring back to the temple filled with ecstasy filled with joy.

Do you think they shocked? I think that ten days that they waited the last ten days in the upper room was the most ecstatic meeting that ever been in the history of the world. I believe it exceeded the joy of Moses when he got all Israel to sing the horse and his rider happy cast into the sea. They knew the devil's power was broken.

They seen Jesus going up. He says I'll go up there to my father. And when I get there I'll make perfect your imperfect thing.

I think in the upper room they were saying he's there he's there in the right hand of the father if we just pray he'll just communicate with the father. He said I go to prepare a place for you. He's got angels busy getting your mansion ready.

So why worry? They'd lost all fear of men. They'd lost all fear of death. They'd lost all fear of consequences.

They'd lived in this world as though they were already in the next world. Well listen now what it's about? Why do you say thy kingdom come thy will be done not on earth in earth I am earth I am of the earth earthy. And the kingdom of God can start now.

That's where it starts not right after I die. I read the other day somewhere about they buried a man what did it say they buried a man yesterday. Or so and so died yesterday and they buried him and somebody who knew him said he died 45 years ago.

He'd been no good for 45 years. He wasted his life. Are you dead or are you alive tonight? If they bury you tomorrow would you say well that man's already been dead about 3 years.

Now there are two classes of people in the world. Not rich and poor not black and white. Not bond slaves and free men.

Just two kinds. Those who are dead in sin and those who are dead to sin. There's no other count.

But either dead in trespasses and in sin or that miracle has taken place in us which has taken place in some of these men. In fact all of them. It says in Ephesians 2 doesn't it the first verse you ought to ye did in time pass time pass something's happened in time pass you ought to go into the prince of this world the power of this world the prince of the power of the air and yet at the end of that very very very same chapter it says ye are the habitation of God.

You can't show me a miracle in the world greater than that. And man is the habitation of fear the habitation of sins bondage the habits and God gets hold of him kicks the devil out of his life and fills him with God. You know if we gazed every day on the majesty of the risen son of God you'd never backslide you'd never be afraid you'd never get depressed.

After all everything's going our way because it's gone his way. They took knowledge of them they marveled at that. Oh Lord I'm waiting for us some Sunday I'm expecting the glory of God to come.

We'll walk out of the sanctuary with a different attitude entirely a revolutionized personality a consciousness that even now with two feet on earth I can be in heavenly praise during Christ Jesus. That's what Paul says we're seated with him and that's where these disciples were.

I went to a little Bible college I've told you with 35 students no girls they're too distracting both before and after marriage but anyhow 35 young men and I sat here and there's a picture of a saintly man here at one time president of the Methodist Church and president of the college before I get there his name was Thomas Cook he wrote a very fine book on holiness which is still printed these days I used to look up at that when I when I couldn't answer questions it didn't help me at all but he had a marvelous saintly face and he used to go around the village churches and one day a little girl went the old fashioned way you know they used to have a butcher's shop where all they sold was meat you won't remember those days you'd go to supermarkets you'd see half a cow here and half a pig

there and other pigs outside but anyhow then you saw the butcher's meat and this little girl was restless and the butcher said now Mary come on you're usually so quiet now don't step out of line dear but what oh she said we're having a visitor at the manse as they call the pastor's house having a visitor at the manse this week why don't you have visitors almost every week yes what's the difference this week oh they've taken the furniture out on the lawn and they've been beating it and beating the mat and the little girl was fourteen and she said you know sir they're making such a fuss as we say in England getting excited so much you'd think Jesus himself was coming and the butcher laughed and said well Annie that's a nice little thing to say next week she went to the butcher and he said

well Annie how are you she said he's been who's been I told you last week they were making such a commotion at the house you'd think Jesus was coming well he came his name is Thomas Cook isn't that nice the same man was going on a ship off the west coast of Africa they pulled out from Spain and gone down the coast there and the first night he was out he went through the saloon where men were drinking and smoking and playing cards and suddenly everybody grabs their cards and put them under the table did you notice that yeah sure did I've been on this trip many times what happened everybody grabbed their cards stuck their pipes underneath why did they do it one man said well could you do anything less with a face like that that came through the saloon he had a face like the prince of peace

it was engraved on him there was a majesty about him there was something in his walk something in his thoughts something in his actions and everybody took notice of him that he lived with Jesus he did because he spent hours every day in the presence of Jesus they took knowledge of him within the veil his fragrance poured upon me without the veil that fragrance shed abroad within the veil his hand shall tune the music which sounds on earth the praises of thy God there's something wrong I think you said today when you were at the vanity fair the other day Christian bookseller association which is two doors from Babylon isn't it something when you have Christians with dogs little coats on dogs Jesus shapes and shirt buttons that have Jesus and others rotten stuff and I'd say well it's the

only testimony some people have well why not get them saved that's the only testimony they have boy if your button comes off if anybody see my testimony around here that would be terrible the whole thing was Babylon they had little stuffed dogs with Jesus on them that's degrading it's Babylon as far as I'm concerned do we have to wear a badge a sign that the living Christ is in us isn't there a dignity about our language about our attitude I don't care if you're a deacon or a beacon or what in the world you are I won't ask your friend what kind of a person you are I'll slip up to the back door when you're away and ask your wife how you live do you get wild do you get angry do you get distressed or do you live as calmly as Jesus would under those circumstances after all he has no other

lights to shine in the world except you and I reflecting as in a mirror do you know how to get a mirror so it won't work smear it with grease you don't have to put an ink stick just smear it with your hand that always has oil on it and the mirror immediately disfigures the reflection and if there's something in your life of bitterness and strife and envy or some other thing the image will be marred the image of God that should be in us restored by the redemptive work of Jesus Christ and by the abiding spirit of the Holy Ghost see God only has one class for his people only one and that's holiness I didn't write it I like that verse in Hebrews where it says that we we we we on this earth while we're here as the hymn writer says in this body pent or tied up we while we're here on earth are

supposed to be as holy as Jesus Christ was when he was on earth he didn't die to leave us moral cripples leaping around or staggering and falling and stumbling the ordinary course of the Christian life is victory from morning time you get up to the time you go to bed it isn't that we can't sin it's that we don't want to sin it's not that it's impossible to sin it's possible not to sin there's a big difference about Jesus Christ expects that you and I to be little Christ while we're here in this world reflecting the moral and spiritual glory of God in the face and not just our physical face but in our display to other people as they read us as they see us we don't need veils on our faces we don't have enough glory but it should be that the glory of God is reflected in our demeanor in our

actions in our attitudes in our personality there's nothing more revolutionary than the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ made real in us putting to death the old man and putting on the new man and then meaning

dwelt by the spirit of God that's not super that's the normal Christian life again it's not impossible to sin it's possible not to sin what a difference when Moses was there in the presence of God and God was angry he came down livid with anger so much so that he threw the stones down and he broke the ten commandments but in the next chapter it's altogether different he's a different Moses when he comes down this time his face isn't blood red with anger his face is radiating a holy God the reflection of eternity is in the face of the man and the people are speechless about him no

wonder you know if we ever get into the fullness of the blessing the neighbors will wonder what in the world is wrong with us I think about half a dozen going down the dark street one night the street would light up it's a bit of an exaggeration but I'm hoping it will work anyhow it should be that we change the atmosphere in any place that we go to the Quakers used to say that you remember that day brother Dale used to say a man is his own atmosphere if you're on fire for God you can go into a frozen atmosphere and it will change like that if you're holy the atmosphere will change you'll send some waves through that audience because they know the holiness of God is there and it doesn't reflect on me it reflects on him not me no we don't have to put those on our faces it should be the

normal reaction of our lives that the grace of God is in his honest to its fullness that everybody knows every time they see us there's an evenness you know you see some people one day they have a smile like this excuse me not quite as big but anyhow it's from ear to ear nearly and another day you see morning and you think very morning if it's really true what we sang tonight my sin or the bliss of this glorious thought it doesn't have dominion over me I have it under my feet by the grace of God all the vain things that charm me most have gone away the vain things charm me most and help me least it should be that when we go into an atmosphere that people welcome us not of our station in life not that we're wealthy or brilliant because the grace of God is there and they know that we're

people of sound speech not critical speech not unkind speech but holy speech they took knowledge of them the hierarchy the big shots religious leaders the other leaders and these little nobodies come up and they take notice of them they say you don't see men like this every day what's the quality of them what's the quality of their living and somebody says they've been with Jesus just one thing I remember when we lived just outside of Manchester that's a place to live it's one of the darkest towns in England one of the wettest it seems to rain every day and I'd been visiting and boy it was a pretty miserable day I was pretty wet I saw a bus coming and I flagged the fellow down and when I got in oh mercy it was overbearing with perfume it was just fantastic and then a lady put up her money

the fellow goes down the middle corridor of the bus and he's handing you money and this lady raised her hand and she had a red cuff on a blue thing like this and she gave her money and as she did I suddenly realized you know some of you guys have some stuff called English leather and it's made at the factory where the bus started and those women had been in that atmosphere all the day and just as you go home where have you been I was on the plane and they were all smoking and it penetrates your clothes these women had been in that atmosphere they hadn't put it on but the clothing absorbed it and they were all sitting there in the bus and when I got out of that dirty atmosphere in Manchester which is a dull atmosphere and stepped in it was a fragrance of the garden they didn't shout they

didn't say look it spoke for itself it should be the grace of Jesus Christ the gentleness and meekness of the Lord Jesus Christ I don't know maybe I'll will David be here next week Paul well he'll have a good preacher one of my sons may be here preaching so I'll get a night off I won't get paid but that's alright but David always reminds me of that scripture the gentleness and meekness of Jesus Christ he was the most

nervous boy I think I'd ever seen in my life till the Lord got hold of him and saved him and filled him with the Spirit now he's called past in a church of 1600 every Sunday morning another 600 in Sunday school running at the same time God has used him round the world he's on a trip round now I say that not to boast to my son but there's nothing I'm boasting about him I guess

but because if you think it couldn't happen to me it can listen it's not what you can bring to God that matters it's what God can bring to you but you've got to be a clean vessel a purge vessel you're not wanting to be a somebody and hang your hat up with the great preachers or get some society behind your name but just totally glorify him and say I want to sit in your presence until the very fragrance of eternity comes into my being into my thinking into my acting into my talking into my demeanour just like the fragrance got into the clothing of those women well what's it all got to do with praying well if you see the glory of a God like that in all his majesty you have more confidence in prayer at least you should I do I think of that bunch of failures they almost all let Jesus down and

now they're standing up against you see the greatest miracle was not Peter and John healing the cripple at the gate of the temple it's a miracle in John and Peter Peter that ran away from the finger of a girl and now he stands up against the big hierarchy the big shots and he points the finger and says you crucified the Lord of Glory but Him after God raised up come on Jesus has nothing else to do he's done everything he can for the church it's just that we have to enter in and we enter in by humility we enter in by recognizing again our weakness and yet his majesty what the church has had up to this point hasn't shaken the world and if we go on like this it'll take a thousand years to get the world turned around and we won't do it then because we're working on the same old formula we

have to behold his glory we have to behold his majesty we have to behold him risen in all his glorious power and then let this be absorbed in our lives that people take knowledge of us not by what we dress or the car we drive but they take knowledge of us we've been with Jesus I get bored to death when I'm in with places no matter how nice and smart they are how big the houses the conversations about Jesus it's wasting time when we travel I don't travel much I travel so and when we go every time we go it's an Emmaus journey even if it isn't a Cadillac you can make the best of it and you can sing and praise and magnify the Lord come on there's not much time left I said a phrase I intended to say it the other night any of you how many of you the other night I preached on David Betty you

weren't there that was the night the glory came not because you weren't there I preached on the judgment seat the other night how many were there some of you oh good wasn't it a gracious meeting I preached that a hundred times but never with as much joy and anointing I think of that night but one thing I forgot to say there'll be no maturing after we die I believe as the tree falls it lies I don't think a million years in eternity will make a bit of difference to your standing there or your maturity all the maturity is here and that's a very serious thing there's not much time for many of us any of us really and to think that between here and there that once the thread of life snaps I'm not going to be maturing God has given me all I need for maturity in this book and no man however tall

he was however strong he was however great he was in the kingdom of God ever had more than I have in this book he just absorbed more of it he dwelt on it more he meditated on it Moses could have run away oh I've seen the glory of God he stays there he isn't caring what's happening what if they're making another golden calf forget it I'm absorbed with God's glory with God's majesty with God's beauty and if you say God like that you won't care a hill of beans if somebody leaves you out of some special function they have they didn't invite you to a wedding they invite you somewhere else it won't make a bit of difference the

more I'm absorbed in him the less I care about the things under that I want to be eternity conscious I want to be God conscious I'm going to eternity not for the weekend

if you are well go but I'm not going with you I'm going into his eternal presence forever so what if I suffer a little what if I'm not like people don't like my preachings I don't like your preaching if they shake hands I don't like it either you won't get one over me saying that it could be a lot better maybe it could be worse come on we're eternity bound people are we absorbing all there is in the risen Christ of God is your life reflecting his peace his peace his joy his love it's all there to be absorbed by us my peace I live with not peace my peace joy no my joy no man taking it from you take everything else take the shirt off your back take the money out of your pocket take your friends you can't take your joy joy he says your joy no man taking it from you read the 16th chapter of

john it's his joy the joy that dominated his life under pressure when they threatened him when they would have killed him but he was dominated by joy by peace and I leave you my peace by joy and his joy was during the will of the father this is his legacy to his disciples any king that as poor as Jesus he didn't have any houses he could share he didn't have any horses to lead them he didn't have any money he said I give you my peace I'll give you my joy these are worth a million million times the other things you have and if I'm living in less than that I'm not living where God wants me and if I'm not living there I won't reflect his glory I won't reflect his beauty ah yes and while we're rejoicing there's a world outside perishing the more I see of him the more I'll hate sin the more I

see of him the more I long that what Jesus died for will be accomplished in my generation it hasn't been accomplished in any other you've got the greatest chance in the world to make history and you'll only do it when you're cleansed and filled with the spirit of God we're going to pray if you wish to go you're free to go as we kneel to pray we leave the service open-ended because so often we've let me find the watch I brought us I don't know whose watch was it don't all put your hands up whose watch was this some brother catch no put it over to him please thank you so much it didn't help me so much but anyhow let's pray we're praying for revival in this community as well as other places we're praying for revival in your church I felt there was real blessing down there at what do you call

it Rose Heights Church of God there's a lovely spirit a very precious man there I learned to love him in the few nights I was there and I ask you to pray for that church as well that the glory will come I don't care where the fire falls but it must fall somewhere so feel free if you're not in the spirit if you say my life doesn't reflect the glory of Jesus well cough out what's wrong is it pride is it envy what is it stubbornness jealousy what is it don't say bless me Lord kill this thing in me go to the cross and die and get resurrection life so now we're going to pray and as I say you're free to leave anytime you like thanks J.B.

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