



Sermon Discussion Guide




"Glory"

Matthew 17:1-13

Rev. Ray Cortese, February 28 & March 1, 2015

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Matthew 17:1-13. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 People at the Academy Awards were moved to tears by the song about Selma, Alabama. Why? What transcendent hope of glory exists in the heart of every human being?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, "What was the sermon about on Sunday?" what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

GLORY: DEITY UNVEILED

- 3 What was the difference between what happened on Mount Sinai and what happened at the Transfiguration in Matthew 17?
- 4 Why are obedience and worship appropriate responses when you acknowledge the deity of Jesus?

- 5 How have you been tempted to complete the following thought at various times in your life: "I'm a Christian, but I reserve the right to _____."
- 6 Why is worship not a spectator sport?

GLORY: INTIMACY RESTORED

- 7 Why is there an infinite abyss between sinners and a Holy God? Why can't we bear the moral weight of God's glory on our own?
- 8 How does Jesus bridge the gap between us and God? What does it mean to you that because of Christ God says about you, "You are my beloved in whom I am well pleased"?

GLORY: FUTURE GLIMPSED

- 9 Discuss the following quote: "There is present power in a vision of the future that is sure but not yet realized." Read Romans 8:18. How does knowing the future glory allow you to be patient in present sufferings?
- 10 How does knowing that one day God will make all things new encourage you to do things like Isaiah 55 in Reynosa, Mexico?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?