

Introduction

1. This famous painting depicts Jesus as boy working in his father's carpenter shop. (Show)¹
 - a. As Joseph carries wood back/forth interesting shadow falls from sunlight on Jesus.
 - b. You can see a shadow in the shape of a cross. Artist making a major point, isn't he?
 - c. Jesus lived entire life in shadow of cross. Knew this is why He had come.
 - d. Perhaps you know the title of painting: In the Shadow of the Cross.
 2. Today sermon series from Gospel of Mark (2nd half) entitled: In Shadow of Cross. (Show)²
 - a. Theme verse of Mark is 10:45. Not only declares Jesus' purpose in coming. (Show)³
 - i. Also, gives outline of Mark. Chps. 1-8: Jesus serves. Proves claims by what does.
 - ii. High point = chp. 8:29: You are the Christ. Disciples get it. They understand!
 - iii. Right? Or do they? Don't understand last part: to give his life a ransom for many.
 - iv. Starting w/Peter's confession Jesus begins to teach them about death/resurrection.
 - v. As He teaches them He journeys closer/closer to Jerusalem, place of final rejection.
 - b. Before Peter's confession, **killed** = 0xs. After Peter's confession, **killed** = 9xs.
 - i. Jesus now begins to talk openly/plainly about living in shadow of the cross, 8:31.
 - ii. What does it mean to follow a suffering, crucified, rejected, resurrected Savior?
 3. Do you know as Jesus begins to unfold this upon them, 1st thing does is encourage them.
 - a. As shadow of cross grows darker/darker, Jesus wants them know worth it follow Him.
 - b. In our dark times as we follow a rejected, yet risen Savior, we need know worth it too.
 - c. Interesting how Jesus encouraged them – gave glimpse of true identity (Read vv. 1-2)
 - a. Jesus showed self to them as really is. We call The Transfiguration.
 - b. How see Jesus is diff. between discouragement/encouragement when times get tough.
 - c. **Principle: If we see Jesus clearly we will live for Jesus courageously in tough times.**
 4. Place where Jesus took them was most likely Mt. Hermon in Syria (over 9000 ft). (Show)⁴
 - a. What a majestic mountain towering above the landscape below.⁵
 - b. Jesus transfigured here. What a majestic Savior we have.
 - c. 4 stages of transfiguration = 4 encouraging truths for us. 1st two today. Next 2 later.
- I. Vision of Glory (1-3): (The Glory Is Forever)⁶**
- A. Vision Itself
1. transfigured = metamorphosis = outward change comes fr. w/in
 - a. Opposite = masquerade = outward change not from w/in (superficial)
 2. clothes became radiant = polished brass/gold/steel, golden glare of sunlight
 - a. Intensity so great no launderer on earth could bleach them any whiter.
 - b. Describing a heavenly brilliance rather than an earthly brilliance.
 - c. This'd be like going into a dark room with an ultra-violet light on & shirt glows.

¹ <http://www.larsjustinen.com/images/ShadowOfTheCross.jpg>. Lars Justinen. *In the Shadow of the Cross*. 1/12/17.

² http://www.crosspointchurch.com/graphics_new/cp_header_toppics_series/cp_wph_series_intheshadow.jpg. 1/14/17.

³ <http://www.slideshare.net/jackfoo/2-kings-5-ppt-3-nov>. Slide 18: Mark 10:45. 1/14/17.

⁴ http://rocbo.lautre.net/gilgamesh/img/iconographie/Mont_Hermon.jpg. 1/13/17.

⁵ <http://www.israel-a-history-of.com/images/MtHermanSnowCovered.jpg>. 1/14/17.

⁶ Show application at letter C.

B. Vision's Meaning For Christ

1. Jesus shared glory w/Father as the eternal Son of God, John 17:4.
2. When came earth, assumed human nature & veiled glory in incarnation hiding it, Is.53:2.
3. Following resurrection, assumed glory again when returned to heaven, Rev. 1:14.
4. Only place before cross where allowed glory shine forth is here, John 1:14.
5. Jesus was giving them a preview of His future glory.
 - a. He slipped back into eternity, to his pre-human glory. It was a glance back and a look forward into his future glory.⁷
 - b. Jesus would suffer, be rejected & die, but rise again to eternal glory.
 - c. Jesus' death was temporary, but His glory is forever.

C. Vision's Meaning For Us: (The Glory Is Forever) (Show)

1. We live in a of world fading dreams. Glory of earth is so temporary.
 - a. How swiftly passes the glory of this world.⁸
 - b. D. Thomas in Cowboys 1st Super Bowl: If this so grt, why do again next yr?
 - i. Minutes after the game already the glory fading. Already feeling empty.
 - ii. Yrs ago clipped picture of grimacing mother at news conference.⁹
 - i. Family from IN went to Ontario for hockey game. Puck flew over glass.
 - ii. Hit 10yr old son. Put in coma. When awoke too soon discern brain damage.
 - iii. Isn't typical of glory of world. What begins so promising can end so devastating.
 - c. Can't think of 1 thing that is permanent, not temp. (cf. Mt. 24:35a - pretty inclusive)
2. So refreshing to read what we have in Christ does not fade away (Show 1 Pet. 1:3-4).¹⁰
 - a. I remember African-Am student coming to seminary from Youngstown, OH. Freshman.
 - b. Almost w/in first week, brother murdered. He had go home for funeral. Then return study.
 - c. Talk about world fading dreams. He was beginning seminary; his brother was murdered.
 - d. How concentrate on Greek, Hebrew & Church History? His eyes were on a majestic Jesus.
 - e. Heaven and earth may pass away, but my words will never pass away.

II. Visitors from the Old Testament (4-6): (The Wait Is Over)¹¹

A. Moses and Elijah Appear

1. Amazing occurrence – Moses and Elijah appeared. (Show)¹²
 - a. Moses had been dead over 1400yrs. Elijah about 900yrs.
 - b. Luke says there were talking about Jesus' exodus, Luke 9:31.
 - c. Just as Moses had led Israel out of bondage in the Exodus,...
 - d. Jesus thru death/res. would lead a greater exodus of believers from bondage.

B. Why Moses and Elijah? (Show)

1. Both met God on Mt. Sinai. Both saw God's glory.

⁷ Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior*. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books. Vol. 2, p. 15.

⁸ Thomas A Kempis quoted by Eleanor Doan, *Speakers Sourcebook II*, p. 177.

⁹ "Hockey Tragedy." *The Muskegon Chronicle* 3/26/97.

¹⁰ http://images.slideplayer.com/27/9028006/slides/slide_5.jpg.

¹¹ Show application at letter C.

¹² Transfiguration, Carl Bloch, Danish painter. <http://truthbook.com/jesus-pictures/the-transfiguration-of-jesus>. 1/14/17.

2. Both mysteriously departed from the earth.
 - a. Moses buried directly by God & no one knew the location of his grave.
 - b. Elijah was raptured in a whirlwind to heaven and never died.
 - c. Some Jewish traditions claimed Moses still alive (tell Heston story here).
 3. Both were expected to return.
 - a. Because of disappearances expected return before end.
 4. Both represented the entire O.T.
 - a. O.T. divided into two parts = law & prophets.
 - b. Moses wrote the law; Elijah was the 1st & greatest of the prophets.
 - c. Remember what Philip said to Nathaniel in John. 1:45
 - d. The Law pointed to Jesus; sacrifices illustrated Jesus; prophets predicted Jesus.
 - e. So here we have the two great representatives of the whole O.T.
 5. Jews waiting hundreds yrs. for their Messiah to come.
 - a. Now Moses & Elijah appear to say, The Wait is over. He's here! here!
 - b. And thru His death and greater exodus He is going to set His people free.
- C. **Our Wait Is Over** (Show)
1. What wait? Jesus is end of all we've been searching for. Let me read what He gives:
 - a. Your sins are forgiven you – Mark 2:5;
 - b. Your joy may be full – John 15:11;
 - c. My peace I give you – John 14:27;
 - d. You shall receive power when the H.S. has come upon you – Acts 1:8;
 - e. I give water springing up unto eternal life – John 4:14;
 - f. You may have life more abundantly -- John 10:10. All we could ever want.
 2. Did know 1997 = 20th Anniversary of the Heaven's Gate Cult mass suicide? (Show)¹³
 - a. Leader convinced them UFO in tail of the Hale-Bopp Comet pictured right.
 - b. In UFO were aliens of a higher life coming to take them to eternal life.
 - c. Comet was a sign to release spirits from body & escape to eternal life.
 - d. They all thought their wait was over & died w/leader who said Follow me.
 3. Isn't it interesting that Jesus' very words Follow Me come right before Transfiguration.
 - a. Read 8:34-38. Our wait is over because Jesus came in the glory of His Father.
 - b. Follow Him. Follow Him.

¹³ http://24.media.tumblr.com/tumblr_m1i06gmnZm1r4qlp5o1_1280.jpg. Newsweek cover. Accessed 1/14/17.