

Fourth Quarter : Studies in the Lives of Peter and John

LESSON FOREWORD—A week has passed since last lesson. Doubtless the shadow of the cross foretold by Jesus lay heavy on all hearts. Now comes an experience which must have gone a long way in confirming the faith of the disciples, whatever might be the tragic end that awaited. They would learn the glory and the supremacy of Jesus.

Lesson VII.

WITNESSES OF CHRIST'S GLORY November 16, 1919

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Luke 9 : 28-36.

28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Pe'ter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Mo'ses and Eli'as :

31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jeru'salem.

32 But Pe'ter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep : and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

GOLDEN TEXT—This is my beloved Son : hear ye him.—Mark 9 : 7 (Rev. Ver.).

SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC—Mountain Top Experiences. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Ex. 34 : 29-35 ; Isa. 6 : 1-13 ; 2 Cor. 12 : 1-10 ; Col. 3 : 1-4 ; 1 John 3 : 1-3.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. A GLORIOUS SIGHT.

—28, 29. *About an eight days.* Mark says six, but Luke counts inclusively. *After these sayings* ; the subject of last lesson, including the declaration of Jesus regarding his death in Jerusalem. Doubtless these days were filled with work. *Took Peter and John and James.* There was an outer circle of nine disciples, and an inner circle of three.

These three had either greater capacity for friendship, or were to have greater responsibilities later on. *Into a mountain* ; the favorite place of retreat for Jesus. This mountain was in all probability Mount Hermon, or its lower slopes. It was a great landmark in northern Palestine. *To pray.* Prayer was not one other duty for Christ, but a rest, a refuge, a re-creation. All that is best in life comes to a soul in this attitude towards God. *Fashion of his countenance . . . altered* ; became radiant. The disciples are to see his glory as well as to learn of his strange end.

II. A GLORIOUS COMPANY.—30-33. *Moses . .*

33 And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Pe'ter said unto Je'sus, Master, it is good for us to be here : and let us make three tabernacles ; one for thee, and one for Mo'ses, and one for Eli'as : not knowing what he said.

34 While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them : and they feared as they entered into the cloud.

35 And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son : hear him.

36 And when the voice was past, Je'sus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.



THE TRANSFIGURATION

Elias ; outstanding characters of the Old Testament, Moses representing the Law, and Elijah representing the prophets. Their presence represents the unity of God's revelation, beginning in law and prophecy and made perfect in Christ. *Spake of his decease* ; rather "his exodus," signifying that his death was divinely purposed. *Accomplish* ; again the definite note of

purpose. The fact that they spoke of Christ's decease indicates its paramount importance. Redemption is the engrossing theme of heaven. *Peter . . heavy with sleep.* They had fallen asleep as Jesus was praying, and before the marvelous change had taken place. *Peter said . . it is good . . to be here.* Peter recognizes the greatness of the event and the visitants. *Let us make three tabernacles.* Peter wishes to prolong the experience. He is willing to forget the valley below, where Christ is badly needed. *Not knowing what he said.* Peter was dazed and bewildered.

II. A GLORIOUS VOICE.—34-36. *There came a cloud* ; the greatest experience has yet to come.