

## **Luke 9:18-22 – Who is Jesus?**

There are days in our lives which are turning points. Days to face up to big truths and make big changes and decisions. Here was a day like that for Jesus' disciples. They had been with him. They had seen him. They had heard from him. They had seen others rejecting him and saying many things about him. But now it was time for them to decide where they stood, and move to the next stage in their discipleship.

### **1. Who is Jesus? (v18-19)**

Jesus was praying alone. Before every important work we should pray. Everything depends on God. It is good to pray in church, in family and other groups. But on the day of judgment we will stand before God alone. Only we can know our inner life and soul's needs. Jesus was the holy, sinless Son of God. Yet in his human life he relied fully upon the Father. How much more should we? Jesus asked his disciples – who do people say I am? Some said John the Baptist. It seems they believed that one man's soul could pass to another – the Bible does not teach that (Hebrews 9:27-28). Some said he was Elijah, who did not die (2 Kings 2:10-12) and was prophesied to return (Malachi 4:5-6). But it was not Elijah himself who was to come, but a person like Elijah – which was John (Matt. 11:14). All these answers gave honour to Jesus as a great man. But truly, they dishonoured him. All those men were sinners like us; they could not save us. Jesus was the holy Son of God, come from heaven. He is our maker and judge. Only the real Jesus can save us. You also need to decide – who really is Jesus? Just one great man, or your Lord, God and Saviour?

### **2. Who Jesus really is (v20)**

Jesus asked – what about you? Peter answered for the disciples. They believed he was the Christ, sent by God. “Christ” means “Messiah”, which means “God's anointed king”. In the beginning God promised a Saviour after Adam sinned (Genesis 3:15). He promised one who would deal with sin, and take away the curse on creation – and defeat death itself. Jesus did this when he died on the cross. He paid the full price for sin, and then he rose again from the grave. Others in Israel did not see their need for this. They rejected him and insulted him. It was hard now to follow him. It had been preached that he was the Messiah (John 1:41). The real challenge was for the disciples to believe even after the leaders rejected him and after he showed that he rejected political and earthly power and glory. How about you? Even if Jesus does not make your life easy or healthy or rich, will you trust in him because you need your sins to be forgiven?

### **3. What Jesus came to do (v21-22)**

The leaders of Israel wanted someone to bring the nation of Israel great victories over the other nations. They wanted someone to set up a great kingdom of glory on earth. That was the salvation they desired. But we need a greater redemption than this. We need to be saved from slavery to sinful ways. Do you see your sin, so that you see Jesus as the one you really need? Jesus did not come in outward glory and power; he came humbly, to die. He came to suffer for our sin as a servant. Jesus told his disciples that things would get blacker and darker. Glory can only come the way of the cross in this sinful, broken world. What kind of Jesus do you want? The real one leads us to glory through rejection and pain. But God raised up Jesus and will raise us up too. Are you willing now to be a humble servant of Jesus, with faith in the future resurrection?