

GLOWING IN THE LIGHT OF THE LORD

(Exodus 34:29-35)

Intro: "Glowing and Growing in the Light of the Lord."

-One of our:

#Themes.

#Mottos.

#Slogans.

*Here at Ascension.

-Appears on our bulletin covers.

Transfiguration of Our Lord.

-Wonderful opportunity to reflect on:

#Glowing in the Light of the Lord.

I. Moses Was Glowing In The Light Of The Lord.

A. It Happened On Mount Sinai.

1. Moses had gone up the mountain.
 - a. To receive the Ten Commandments.
 - b. Exodus 34:29.
2. When he came down.
 - a. He was glowing.
 - b. He was so God-burned.
 - No one could stand to look at his face.
 - He had to put a veil over it.
 - c. He probably should have used a lotion.
 - With a higher GPF factor.
 - #God Protection Factor.
3. Moses was glowing in the light of the Lord.

B. Moses' Encounter With God On Mount Sinai Represented A Second Chance.

1. First time Moses had been up the mountain.
 - a. To receive the Ten Commandments.
 - b. Exodus 31:18.

2. Israelites had gotten restless.
 - a. Perhaps fearing something had happened to Moses.
 - Gone AWOL.
 - Fallen off a cliff.
 - Been abducted by:
 - #Elimites.
 - #Midianites.
 - #Edomites.
 - #Moabites.
 - b. Decided that they needed a god.
 - More tangible.
 - More immediate.
 - More accessible.
 - c. So Moses' brother Aaron tried to accommodate them.
 - Collecting the gold earrings from the women.
 - Melting them down.
 - Making a golden calf.
 - #Exodus 32:1-6.
3. When Moses came down from the mountain.
 - a. Moses was none too pleased with what he saw.
 - He glowed with anger and threw down the stone tablets.
 - #With the Ten Commandments on them.
 - #Breaking them to pieces.
 - When Moses asked Aaron what was going on.
 - #Aaron said:
 - *"The people wanted a god."
 - *"So we collected some gold."
 - + "Put it in a fire."
 - *"Out came this calf."
 - #Exodus 32:19-24.
 - Moses took their golden calf.
 - #Melted it down.
 - #Ground the gold into powder.
 - #Scattered the powder on the water.
 - #Made the people drink it.
 - *Before there was lead poisoning.
 - *There was gold poisoning.
 - Then Moses had the Levites (priests):
 - #Strap on their swords.
 - #Kill:
 - *Brothers.
 - *Friends.
 - *Neighbors.
 - #3000 in all (Exodus 32:25-29).

- b. God was none too pleased with what God saw.
 - God wanted to wipe them all out.
 - #Exodus 32: 10.
 - But Moses intervened.
 - #Pleading with God:
 - *"How is this going to look?"
 - *"You brought these people out of Egypt,"
 - + "Only to let them die in the wilderness."
 - *"You'll be the laughing stock of all Egypt."
 - #Exodus 32: 11-14.
 - God gave a second chance.
 - #To Israel.
 - #To Moses.
 - Moses went up Mount Sinai a second time.
 - #To encounter God.
 - *Glowing not with anger.
 - *Glowing with:
 - +Mercy.
 - +Forgiveness.
 - #Moses came down from the mountain.
 - *Glowing in the light of the Lord.

II. Jesus Was All Aglow.

A. On The Mount Of Transfiguration.

- 1. Jesus was transfigured.
 - a. His face.
 - Became brighter than light.
 - b. His clothes.
 - Became whiter than any bathtub full of Clorox could bleach them.
- 2. Jesus' transfiguration.
 - a. Stepping stone between:
 - Christmas.
 - Easter.
 - b. Jesus' transfiguration.
 - Climax of Christmas.
 - #Incarnation of Our Lord.
 - *Divine appears in human form.
 - #Transfiguration of Our Lord.
 - *Human Jesus appears in all of his heavenly glory.
 - Preview of coming attractions.
 - #Jesus appears in the glow of Easter resurrection.

B. Jesus' Appearance On The Mount Of Transfiguration Represents a Second Chance.

1. Second chance to hear the baptismal echo.

a. At Jesus' baptism.

-Divine voice from the heavenly cloud says:

#"You are my Son, the Beloved."

*Luke 3: 22.

b. At Jesus' transfiguration.

-Divine voice from the heavenly cloud says:

#"This is my Son, my Chosen."

*Luke 9: 35.

c. In case we missed it the first time.

-We get to hear a second time.

#Who Jesus is.

d. When I was a jail chaplain.

-I would sometimes have Muslims attend my Christian services.

#There would be spirited debates.

*About Jesus' identity.

#Christians would say:

*"Jesus is the Son of God."

*"Jesus is God in human form."

#Muslims would say:

*"Jesus is not God."

*"He was a son of God,"

+ "Like I'm a son of God."

*"He was a prophet,"

+ "Like Moses was a prophet."

+ "Like Mohammed was a prophet."

#Debate could get rather heated.

-I always tried to bring the discussion back to the Scriptures.

#Jesus' baptism.

#Jesus' transfiguration.

*Who does God the Father say Jesus is?

+ "My Son."

*We hear it twice.

+ Repeated:

=Not only for:

-Peter.

-James.

-John.

=But for us.

-Second chance.

2. Second chance to see the source of our salvation.
 - a. On the Mount of Transfiguration.
 - Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus.
 - #Moses.
 - *Representing the Law.
 - #Elijah.
 - *Representing the Prophets.
 - #Point to Jesus.
 - *Messiah.
 - *Savior.
 - b. But in the end.
 - Moses.
 - Elijah.
 - #Disappear.
 - There is Jesus all alone.
 - #The only source of salvation.
 - *For:
 - +Peter.
 - +James.
 - +John.
 - *For us.
 - #Salvation that is accomplished:
 - *Not on:
 - +Mount Sinai.
 - +Mount of Transfiguration.
 - *But on a hill called Golgotha.
 - +On Good Friday.
 - *In the glow and glory of Easter resurrection.
 - +Second chance at life.
 - =Not just for Jesus.
 - =But for us.

III. That's Where We Get Our Glow.

- A. Not In The Old Covenant.
 1. Paul says the old covenant.
 - a. Like wearing a veil.
 - b. 2 Corinthians 3: 14.
 2. God's glory is not ultimately revealed:
 - a. In the Ten Commandments.
 - b. In the legal codes.
 - Of the Old Testament.
 - c. In our efforts to live by them.

3. Any more than God's glory is revealed:
 - a. In our gold.
 - b. In our golden calves.
 4. That's not where we glow.
- B. We Glow In The Light Of Christ.
1. Light unveiled.
 - a. In a stable in Bethlehem.
 - b. On the Mount of Transfiguration.
 - c. In an Empty tomb.
 - On Easter morning.
 2. Light unveiled.
 - a. In the waters.
 - Of Holy Baptism.
 - b. In the bread and wine.
 - Of the Holy Supper.
 3. Do you think anyone can tell?
 - a. When Moses had been in the presence of God.
 - b. Everybody:
 - Knew.
 - Could see.
 - #His face shown so brightly.
 - *He had to keep it veiled.
 4. Do we veil the light of Christ?
 - a. Because we're shy.
 - At least shy about:
 - #God.
 - #Faith.
 - When we're not shy about:
 - #Sports.
 - #Politics.
 - #Entertainment world.
 - *TV.
 - *Movies.
 - b. Because we're so preoccupied with:
 - Gold.
 - Golden calves.
 - c. Because we don't know the Scriptures well enough.
 - We don't know how to let the light of Christ shine.
 - d. Because we are so insecure in our faith.
 - We don't know how to glow in the light of the Lord.

5. What might people see if we let Jesus lift the veil?
- a. Our worship.
 - b. Our prayer life.
 - c. Our reading of Scripture.
 - d. Our kindness.
 - e. Our forgiveness.
 - f. Our hospitality.
 - g. Our thankfulness.
 - h. Our generosity.
 - i. Our growth in giving.
 - j. Our feeding of the hungry.
 - k. Our assistance to ex-offenders.
 - l. Our care for people in Haiti.
 - m. Our _____.

Concl: How will you fill in the blank?

How will you glow in the light of the Lord?