

Where's the Glory?

A message delivered to
MAYER COMMUNITY CHURCH

July 25, 1999

TITLE: Where's the glory?
TEXT: Exodus 34:29ff & 2 Corinthians 3:7ff
THEME: Reflected glory!
**THRUST: If we have greater glory than Moses,
where is the glory being demonstrated?**

INTRODUCTION

Several years ago, there was a popular advertisement
that stated: "Where's the Beef?"

This morning, I want us to consider the question:
"Where's the glory?"

Several weeks ago, we spent some time speaking about freedom.

The *Glorious liberty of the sons of God*
is a liberty that comes
from our relationship *with* God
through His Spirit.

One of the scriptures that we considered was 1 Corinthians 3:17

"Now the Lord is spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty."

The context of 1 Corinthians 3:17 is quite interesting,
it refers back to Moses and his receiving the Law.

Exodus 34 tells us that when Moses came down from
Mt. Sinai (the second time) that his face shone
with such intense brightness
that the people were unable to look at him.

1 Corinthians 3 tells us that the glory of Moses' face
was a fading glory, signifying
that there is a glory that does not fade away.

1 Corinthians 3 shows us that the veil covering Moses' face
was a symbol of the veil covering the hearts
of those who have not turned to Christ.

The point I want to make to you this morning
is the point that Paul made to the Christians at Corinth.

v.9-11 "If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the
ministry that brings righteousness! ¹⁰For what was glorious has no glory now in
comparison with the surpassing glory. ¹¹And if what was fading away came with glory,
how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!" NIV

In other words, the *glory* that is a result of the Gospel
is greater in intensity and duration

than the *glory* resulting from the Letter of the Law.
Let's look at it another way.

On the one hand, the glory that was experienced by Moses,
even though it was a transient glory,
was a glory that was manifested physically
in Moses' countenance.

On the other hand, the glory that is experienced by us
while is a glory that just gets brighter ...

v.18 "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." NIV

Let's consider four aspects of glory:
Provision Proof Pursuit and Passion

I. The Provision of Glory

Where did Moses get glory?

From being in the presence of God!

Where did Jesus get His?

From being in the presence of God!

Where should we get ours?

From being in the presence of God!

Being a member of a Church does not get you glory.

Especially if you only go on Christmas and Easter!

The presence of God is found in Worship.

The presence of God is found through prayer.

The presence of God is found in the Scriptures.

John 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. (KJV)

The presence of God is found in fellowship with other Christians

"Where two or three are gathered together in my name
there am I in the midst of them." ~Matthew 18:20

II. The Proof of Glory

Glory is manifested in our countenance

Moses' glory was manifested in his face!

There were two reasons Moses wore that veil:

v.7 when compared with Exodus 34

shows us that the one reason was *fear of the glory!*

The people were in fear.

They didn't understand.

v.13 shows us another reason

The Glory was fading!

The people would have misinterpreted that to mean that Moses' relationship with God was fading.

The truth is, that glory was fading
because it was a transient glory
and was designed to give way, light the way
to the *true, lasting glory* – Jesus!

John said, “*We beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten Son of God, full of Grace and Truth.*”

But today, we are *not* like Moses!

We do not (should not) be wearing veils, because:

1. He has not given us a spirit of fear, &
2. The glory is increasing not fading!

But we are still left with the question

How is this glory manifested?

There is every indication that it is to *be* manifested – **v.18**

“Ever increasing glory...”

It's manifested in our Countenance

Is there joy? Is there peace?

Or is there anger, bitterness sadness?

It's manifested in our Attitudes

It's manifested in our Actions

If there is NO manifestation, we are left with one of three reasons:

- There is no manifestation
because there is no relationship.
- There is no manifestation
because there is a veil in place ...
thus, what we are beholding is not the glory
of the reflection of our relationship with God;
but the image that *we* desire people to see – a facade!
- There is no manifestation because the One
who manifests is being grieved or quenched.

Romans 8:19 “The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.” NIV

1 Corinthians 12:7, 18 “Now to *each one* the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” **v.18** And we, who with unveiled faces *all* reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. NIV – emphasis added.

Jesus said, “And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one.” ~John 17:22

Let's briefly consider some important truths from those passages:

- Creation is waiting for our revelation.
 - By creation, does that mean nature or people?
 - Is that waiting fulfilled now or in the future?
- Christians should be a reflection of Jesus'!
- The glory is to be continually increasing
- The glory is to unite us with other believers

So, in light of the last three considerations:

1. That glory should be manifesting in the present
2. That glory should be manifesting to people in the world!

Trees, mountains, rain, fish or wildlife

don't care if you're a Christian or an atheist!

Your glory doesn't have any impact on

the movement of planets

or whether the sun rises or sets.

None of that is impacted by our glory!

But people should be!

Our neighbors should be

Grocery checkers, pharmacists, doctors all should be

Our family members should be

Other drivers should be – uh ohhhh

I used to have a bumper sticker on my car

It read: "Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven!"

Kind of gave me license to be a jerk!

But that's not what other drivers called me...

They certainly weren't seeing glory were they?

3. That glory should not fade
to the contrary, it should be increasing

We have seen that all too often, the Christian life is either
a facade of serenity or a face of sourness.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was sharing with a class of ministerial students about the importance of making the facial expression harmonize with the sermon. "When you speak of heaven," he said, "let your face light up, let it be irradiated with a heavenly gleam, let your eyes shine with reflected glory. But when you speak of hell – well, then your ordinary face will do!" ~James S. Hewett, *Illustrations Unlimited* (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988), p. 352.

That is the heart of our problem ...
rather than seeking *glory*.

we are satisfied with the ordinary ...

the ordinary will do,

“The deeper Christian life,” said A. W. Tozer, “is the willingness to quit trying to use the Lord for our ends and to let him work in us for his glory.” A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

In speaking of the *glory* of the Gospel,

that has been revealed to us, The Apostle Paul said,

Colossians 1:27-28 “To whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

²⁸And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Psalm 84:8-12

III. The Pursuit of Glory v.11

We are all involved in *the pursuit of Glory*

some pursue *God's* glory while others pursue their *own*.

“The secret of every discord in Christian homes and communities and churches is that we seek our own way and our own glory.” ~Alan Redpath, Leadership, Vol. 3, no. 2.

God has said that He will not share His glory with anyone!

Paul stated that he would glory in His weakness

because that is where God's strength was most manifested!

x x x x x

“The real legacy of my life was my biggest failure--that I was an ex-convict. My greatest humiliation--being sent to prison--was the beginning of God's greatest use of my life; He chose the one experience in which I could not glory for His glory.”

~Charles Colson (1997). “Loving God”, p.24, Zondervan

“God is looking for men in whose hands his glory is safe.” ~A. W. Tozer, Leadership, Vol. 3, no. 3.

Psalm 84:11 “For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor (*glory KJV*); no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. (NIV)

Are we really willing to give God the *Glory* due His name?

“All too often we regard stewardship simply as a matter of our giving to God, but this aspect is secondary. Before we can give, we must possess, and before we possess we must receive. Therefore, stewardship is, in the first place, receiving God's good and bounteous gifts. And once received, those gifts are not to be used

solely for our own good. They must also be used for the benefit of others, and ultimately for the glory of God the giver. The steward needs an open hand to receive from God and then an active hand to give to God and to others.” ~ Murray J. Harris in *Voices* (Vol XIII, No. 3, 1987). *Christianity Today*, Vol. 32, no. 4.

The *Pursuit of Glory* means that we have to be in the position
to receive from Him ... *the Lord bestows favor and glory*
we have to receive it!

No good thing does He withhold from them whose walk is blameless
How's your walk?

Perhaps the reason we do not have *glory* to manifest
is because we don't give God the glory due His name.
He said, "He that honors me, I will honor." ~1 Samuel. 2:30

Do you have a *passion* to honor God?

IV. The Passion in Glory

Glory is a *passion* for God's presence vs. 1-2 & 10

*"How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD Almighty!*

² *My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.*

¹⁰ *Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;*

*I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked."*

Is there *any place* you would rather be this morning?

One of the popular bumper stickers of our day

states: "I'd rather be fishing, golfing, whatever ..."

My thought is always ... "Well, then go do whatever..."

I don't know if that is because I am behind them
or because it is a fundamental part of my nature
that I am always happiest where I am right!
(self depreciating humor)

We all experience times when we would rather
be somewhere else, doing something else
maybe even *anything else*
than what we are presently involved with,
but that should *never* be the attitude

of God's people about His presence.

That *Presence* is *pursued* through prayer vs. 8-9

“Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob⁹ Behold, Our Shield, O God look upon the face of your anointed one.”

When is the last time you prayed

and asked God to be gracious to you?

When Nehemiah would pray,

he would say, “O LORD, remember me for good....”

When did you last ask God to consider your situation

and defend you from your enemies...

whether those enemies be

from outside influences or from within?

Perhaps we are too ashamed

in our walk to ask God to look upon our face.

Too ashamed to look on His face!

Remember Moses?

He removed the veil when he was in the presence of God ...

Perhaps we are not at the place

in our interpersonal relationships

where we can truly reveal who/what we are to each other,

but we can certainly remove that veil before God.

We can ask, along with David, for God to view our face!

What we are talking about here is *God's Glory* ...

the *glory* that He wants to manifest through us.

The *glory* that the whole world is waiting to see.

Psalm 27:8 When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O LORD, I shall seek." (NAS)

“Resolved: that all men should live for the glory of God. Resolved second: That whether others do or not, I will.” ~Jonathan Edwards, *Leadership*, Vol. 6, no. 1.

Several years ago, at the peak of the Olympic summer games

there was a phrase that was seen on bumper stickers,

T-Shirts and numerous other places:

“No Guts, No Glory!”

Where is the *passion* of the people of God?

Why are we not consumed with a *passion* for God?

Why are we not more consistent in our demonstration
of the *Glory of God*?

The reason we do not manifest *His Glory*

is because we are not truly pursuing *His* glory.
Perhaps we have forgotten
that the Lord is our *sun and shield!*
The Lord is our *light* and
we are the reflection of His light to the world!

x x x x x

A little girl got home from Sunday school, where she had been taught the verse: Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to our Father who is in heaven. She asked her mother, when she repeated the verse, what it meant. Her mom said, "Well, it means that when you are good and kind and thoughtful and obedient, you are letting Christ's light shine in your life before all who know you."

The very next Sunday in Sunday school, the little girl got in a bit of a fracas with another student and created somewhat of an uproar – to such an extent that the Sunday school teacher had to go and find her mother to get her settled down a bit in the class. Her mother was concerned when she got to the classroom and said, "Sweetie, don't you remember about letting your light shine for the Lord...?" The girl blurted out, "Mom, I have blowed myself out."

Many of us have done just that. In our relationship to Christ, our light has gone out. ~W. Frank Harrington, "The Love That Brought Him," Preaching Today, Tape No. 51.

Isaiah 63:3 *We hid, as it were, our faces from Him....*

That's what Adam did in the garden
We no longer have to hide from God!
Let's ask God to *look at our face!*
We pursue our passions!
Let's ask God to rekindle our *passion for His Glory*

You and God know if there's a block to the
manifestation of glory!
Isn't it time it was removed?

The Cross is the place where we come in repentance ...
as you come this morning, come with the desire
and the petition that His glory be manifested in you!