THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Luke 9:18–36

Key Verse: 9:23

1. What was Jesus doing? (18a) In the context of this passage, why might he have been doing this? Why did he begin by asking his disciples what the crowds were saying about him? (18b) In light of their answer, what was people’s general view of Jesus? (19,7–8) Why do you think people stopped short of saying that Jesus was the Messiah?
2. How did their life with Jesus give the disciples a deeper conviction of who he was? What does Peter’s answer show about him? (20) What does “God’s Messiah” mean? (2:11; Isa9:6) What are some false messiahs in this world? What does it mean to personally confess that Jesus is my Messiah, and why should we? (Ro10:9–10; 1Pe1:8)
3. What did Jesus say to them, and why? (21) Read verse 22. Why did the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law reject Jesus? What would his being killed, then being raised to life mean? (Ac2:22–24,36) Why did these things have to happen to Jesus? (Isa53:4–6,10–11) Why do you think he told his disciples these things now?
4. Read verse 23. What does it mean to deny oneself, take up one’s cross daily and follow Jesus? Why is this the only way for a true disciple of Jesus? How can we really live this way? (Heb12:1–3)
5. What paradoxical truth did Jesus teach? (24) What does it mean to try to save one’s own life? To lose one’s life for Jesus? To follow Jesus, what should we value most? (25) Why is it easy to be ashamed of Jesus and his words? What warning did Jesus give? (26) What did he promise his disciples, and what did this mean? (27)
6. What did Jesus do next? (28) Why was he praying again? What happened? (29) Why did the appearance of his face change? (Ex34:29–30) What does the change in his clothes suggest? What did Moses and Elijah look like, what were they doing, and why? (30–31) How are Peter and his companions described? (32–33)
7. What else happened? (34–35) Why was this necessary? What especially did they need to be listening to, and why? What should we learn from this? How did they respond? (36)