

The Gospel of Luke

Life's Quintessential Question

Luke 9:18-22

1. **A Question of Popular Opinion** (vs.18-19)

Jesus is now at the height of His public popularity. While there was universal agreement about what He could do (i.e. that He was capable of performing miracles), there was no consensus on exactly who He is. All of the answers provided by the disciples indicate that the people were not completely inaccurate, but their understanding was entirely insufficient.

2. **A Question of Personal Conviction** (v.20)

Jesus now looks to His disciples and, in an emphatic way, asks them the same question in order to force them to answer in light of all that they have seen and heard. Peter's profession is correct and it is the result of God's gracious illumination (cf. Matt 16:17), but the disciples do not yet fully understand that He is Christ and God (cf. John 20:28).

3. **A Revelation of a Different Direction** (vs.21-22)

A. **A Command of Public Prohibition** (vs.21)

Jesus' instruction forbidding the proclamation of His identity was, in all likelihood, a shocking and unforeseen command. But the works that He did and the words that He spoke were sufficient to confirm His identity for any who would have ears to hear (Luke 5:20ff).

B. **A Correction of Puzzling/Profound Clarification** (v.22)

The disciples, along with everyone else, expected the Messiah to be a conquering and ruling king, not a suffering and rejected martyr (Ps 110:1-7; cf. John 6:15). Jesus made it clear that His intention was to fulfill the Messiah's function as the suffering servant (Isa 53:1ff) before He would be the conquering King (1 Cor 15:25; cf. Rev 20:7-9).