

'I had sold her, exposed her, spoken hate over her, exhausted her, starved her, drugged her, cut her, injured her, forced her into intimacies. I had abused what was mine to cherish and grow. What deserved respect, reverence and protection, I had treated her as a marketplace.' The words of a young Australian actor. Speaking of the impact of her behaviour on her body. A sinful, broken young lady. Living in a marred, distorted world under the reign of Satan. A world full of sinful, broken people just like her. Like me. Like you. The world Jesus, the glory of God, came to rescue. The world he lives and serves in as a man. Our world. Our brokenness. All of us scarred. Jesus scarred too. Wounds in his hands, feet, side. His heart wounded beyond words. By the death he died for us. *'My God My God why have you forsaken me?'* A world away from the glory revealed on the mount of transfiguration. Listen with me. To what follows that revelation of glory. **(read passage here)** The proverbial mountain top experience crashing into the stark reality of messy humanity. Peter, John, James still wondering, processing. The intimacy of that spiritual reflection dashed by another crowd. A large, noisy, disturbed mass of humanity pressing in on their master. *'Teacher I beg you'* shattering the awe of heavenly words, *'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.'* Precious words lingering in Jesus' soul. Overshadowed by the words of another father speaking of another only son. Jesus, the chosen one sent for a time such as this. To bring rescue, healing. To overturn the work of Satan. The crowd looking on as spectators. Caught up in this vivid picture of human misery. Hearing a desperate father plead with Jesus to look at his suffering son. The power of his plea lost in translation. This is not, take a look at my poor boy. But mercifully, compassionately take an interest in what is going on in my son. Do something. If you can, set him free. The boy's suffering immense, life threatening. His father explains, *'It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him.'* Literally 'crushing him together'. The failure of Jesus' disciples to bring release deepens the father's sense of helplessness. *I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not.*" The disciples had performed these miracles before. Driven out demons, cured diseases. But not this time. The withering words of Jesus shedding light on the spiritual problem. *"You unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? v41* Words pointing to a failure in their spiritual life. A lack of faith. A lack of prayerfulness highlighted in Mark's gospel. Trusting in their own abilities. No longer relying on the power and authority of Jesus. A failure

to prayerfully depend on God as they battle with Satan. A mistake to draw too direct a parallel between us and the unique ministry of the apostles. However, a lesson for us here. Humble, prayerful dependence on God as we live and serve in the name of Christ. Prayerful preparation and covering of whatever we do in his name. Asking God to guard our hearts from arrogance and presumption. Jesus commands the father. Clothed in gracious invitation. *Bring your son here.* The true source of rescue found in Jesus alone. Total authority over evil once again on display. Rebuking the evil spirit. Healing the boy. Crowds, noise, demonic possession, lack of faith, human suffering. A world away from the glory of the transfiguration. The sneak preview of heavenly glory. Is the scene in our passage a world away from glory? Glory shut out by some invisible barrier between this world and the next. Not according to the crowd. *'And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.'* **v43a** Literally, the majesty of God. The majesty of God, the glory of God. Revealed: on top of the mountain; at the foot of the mountain. In Jesus, the glory of God. Luke's intention is to leave us in no doubt about this. Radically editing the Gospel of Mark's detailed account of the same event. Drawing the reader's attention to the seemingly contrasting scenes. Mountain top glory. Earthly mess. To highlight the centrality of Jesus in both scenes. To draw attention to the glory of God. Glory above. Glory below. Glory above because Jesus there. Glory below because Jesus there. Remember from last week. Six hundred years with no biblical reference to the glory of God. Until Jesus birth. His coming into the world. The ascended Lord Jesus still here. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Speaking through his living word. Sisters and brothers, what an encouragement. The glory of God not only experienced in the fulness of eternity. Also, in the sin stained world God loves. In the broken lives of those made in his image and purchased by the blood of his Son. In the lives of disciples walking the way of the cross. Following their Lord. Brothers and sisters, can you see the glory of God? Look around you. See, the glory of God in the transformation of lives. As Paul reminds us in **2 Corinthians 4:6**. The same God who caused light to shine in the universe by a word. Causes the light of the glory of God to shine in human hearts through Jesus. *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.* The glory below in the sphere of sin and death. Reflected in you. Reflected in your Christian sisters and brothers. The glory of Jesus on display as his transforming work continues. Pray for the eyes to see. The ears to hear. Glory

below when a faithful biblical message preached on radio. Moves the hearts of 17 Christians in the Congo to travel 80kms. To seek prayer for forgiveness and reconciliation in their church between different tribal groups. Glory below seen in the broken, sexually permissive, self-harming, anorexic young Aussie actor I quoted. Treating her God given body as a market place. Gradually, assuredly transformed by the Holy Spirit through God's word. Moved to deeper layers of repentance after reading **1 Corinthians 6:19**, *'Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.'* She wrote, 'I had reeled at this. A panicked grief rose up in me as I tried to reconstruct my thinking. That which I had previously discarded, threatened and punished was presented before me as a temple. A sanctuary for God? What? If this were true, my body had a purpose that I had denied, a worth I had refused to attribute to it. The poorest dirtiest beggar in the village – she whom I had kicked and shamed – was suddenly revealed as undercover royalty.' Sisters and brothers, be encouraged by daily revelations of the glory of God in his world. Rejoice in the glory that Christians possess. Such as those we joyously meet with this morning. The glory Jesus unveils as he works in and through us. Repent if you are hiding that glory in sinful patterns of living. Shine the glory of Jesus. For the true source of rescue found in Jesus alone. Shine the glory of Jesus in your love of God above everything and everyone else. In loving your neighbour as yourself. In your growing prayerful, loving commitment to move people to the right. Walk alongside others blinded to the glory of Jesus by the weight of earthly concerns. In a world where there is so much darkness, let us, as bearers of the glory of God, introduce people to Jesus, the glory of God. So they too shine with that glory in this life and are consumed by the radiance of that glory in eternity.