

THE BIG IDEA: What happens in the cloud doesn't stay in the cloud.**The Take-Off**

There is a particular city in our country who launched a marketing campaign a few years back that went better than they probably ever hoped it would have.

So good, in fact, that if I say the first part of it, you'll all be able to say the last part of it.

Yes, you're going to feel weird, like maybe you'll be the only one who knows it and shouldn't risk finishing it out loud, but you can trust me when I tell you that you're not.

Everyone in the room will know it, and so I want everyone to say - out loud at the same time - the rest of this slogan: WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS...

Genius. Pure marketing genius, and unfortunately, totally wrong when it comes to the kingdom of Jesus.

Jesus isn't about compartmentalizing our lives - having a work life, a home life, a church life, a social life - and keeping them all separate.

Jesus wants His glory to spill over into and consume every area of our lives, and we won't see that any more clearly than in the last half of Luke 9.

In fact, what we find in verses 37-62 is that the disciples actually tried to live the Vegas slogan even before Vegas came up with it, only they didn't use the word Vegas.

They lived like what happens in the cloud stays in the cloud.

But it doesn't, or shouldn't.

Ever.

In fact, our Big Idea challenges us that **what happens in the cloud doesn't stay in the cloud**.

When we truly buy in to that truth, we'll become carriers of God's presence from Sunday to the other six days and all the people we encounter during them.

What we find in the last half of Luke 9 are four pictures of what life looks like when we fall for the "Vegas lie" and try to keep God's glory in a box away from other areas of our lives.

Or, to be more specific, we see what happened when the disciples lived like that.

That's good for us, because we can learn from their mistakes, and be better carriers of God's presence as a result!

So, here are 5 dangers that we'll face if we try to keep what happens in the cloud in the cloud.

1. Our faith will fail.

- a. As much as we all enjoy amazing moments in God's presence, the purpose of the cloud is to prepare us for the crowd.
- b. As soon as they'd come off the mountain, they met a father with a demon-possessed son.
- c. The father had begged the disciples to help, but they couldn't, and notice Jesus' response: "how long do I have to put up with this UNBELIEVING generation?"
- d. 3 of these disciples had just seen the "Jesus light show" and at the very least could have brought the boy to Jesus themselves.
- e. But they didn't. They made the father do that.
- f. They didn't act like Jesus was the same Jesus they'd seen on the mountain, and their faith failed.
- g. Let God's presence build your faith in GOD more than in the EXPERIENCE of GOD, and you'll be prepared for whatever the crowd may bring.

2. We'll allow mystery to keep us from intimacy.

- a. I think sometimes we genuinely believe that if we get close enough to Jesus, we'll understand everything about Him.
- b. But, He's God, and that alone means we're not going to!
- c. The disciples had seen His glory, and yet, when Jesus told them about the plan of God, they didn't understand what He was talking about.
- d. First, let's get this straight: we are NEVER going to understand God fully.
- e. It's funny how much we hate that, and yet, if His ways are higher than ours, then it's normal.
- f. The disciples allowed their lack of understanding to become a lack of communication with Jesus (v. 45)
- g. Don't allow questions about God to keep you from intimacy with God.

- h. Learn to love the mystery of God, and never let unanswered questions keep you from seeking to be with Him.

3. We'll argue over position

- a. Unbelievably, just a short time after seeing Jesus in all of His glory, the disciples are arguing over their positions in the kingdom.
- b. When we separate the cloud and make it just “a Sunday thing,” we’ll find ourselves arguing over position instead of pursuing God’s presence.
- c. But in the glory of God - in the cloud - the only position is one of service: Peter had wanted to build tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah.
- d. In the cloud, Peter wanted to serve. Out of the cloud, he wanted to be served.

4. We'll fight the wrong opposition

- a. What happened when James and John bought the lie that “what happens in the cloud, stays in the cloud?”
- b. They wanted to kill people!!
- c. Because the Samaritans wouldn’t welcome them, they wanted to call down fire from heaven to destroy them!
- d. They couldn’t find any power for healing the demon-possessed boy, but they were willing to call down fire to destroy.
- e. Unfortunately, they were fighting the wrong opposition.
- f. Our fight isn’t against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities. (Ephesians 6:12)

5. We'll look for an out

- a. I understand that the last few verses of Luke 9 weren’t specifically written about the 12 disciples, but Luke included these here for a reason, and I think it’s to show us that when we allow what happens in the cloud to stay in the cloud, we’ll always look for an out.
- b. Or, as in the case of these 3 men, having never seen the glory of Jesus made it too easy to look for an out.
- c. At any rate, for us the point is critical: only being around Jesus isn’t enough to make others want to go all in. But when we’ve been in His presence and we carry that from the cloud to the crowd, it changes why we do what we do.
- d. Jesus didn’t beg for followers because He knew that people can’t be pushed all in. They have to choose it.
- e. Until we really see His glory, we’ll always have a wandering eye for something better.

The Landing

Vegas was wrong. The life of a follower of Jesus isn’t divided.

The glory of Jesus that we see in private must transfer into the story of Jesus that others see in public.

Remember: what happens in the cloud doesn’t stay in the cloud.

Let’s pray.