

## Luke Chapter 9

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V: 1-2 After ministering to the demoniacs of Gadara, healing the woman of her issue of blood, and raising Jairus' daughter from the dead – Jesus sends out the 12 disciples / Apostles to do the same.

- He gave them power for specific things: to preach the Gospel, to heal the sick, and to drive out demons.

**Matthew 28:18** “<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, all power / authority is given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

- Jesus possesses all power, it is His to give to whomever He chooses – He alone imparts power.

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- Jesus' ministry consisted of teaching, preaching, and healing. The disciples are sent out to preach and to heal, but no mention of teaching. For various reasons they're weren't ready to teach yet.

- Later in the great commission there is specific mention made of teaching others what they have learned and are now ready to teach, that is to be obedient to the word of God.

**Matthew 28:19-20** “<sup>19</sup>Go therefore, and teach / make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: <sup>20</sup>Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”

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- Notice the order: **1<sup>st</sup>** they were “*called*” – then **2<sup>nd</sup>** He “*gave them power*” to do the Lord's bidding, **3<sup>rd</sup>** “*He sent them.*” God's servants are usually sent somewhere.
  - This is different than when He sends out 70 other disciples doing the same thing.
  - There were 12 Apostles, and many disciples, multitudes of followers – they weren't all called to the same things, but whatever He calls us to, He is the One who empowers us.

**Philippians 4:13** “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

**John 15:5** “I am the vine, you are the branches: he that abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without Me you can do nothing.”

- Luke is a much shorter, more abbreviated version of this event whereas Matthew gives us a fuller picture:

After listing the 12 Apostles:

**Matthew 10:5-8** “<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup>But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And as you go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. <sup>8</sup>Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

- Luke leaves out the part about not going to the Gentiles. Why do you suppose he did that? Because he was writing to the Gentiles / Greeks.
- They were sent to preach the “kingdom of God”, preaching the same message as John the Baptist and our Lord Jesus.

**Matthew 3:2, 4:17** “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”  
(Jesus’ first words in His public ministry)

“The kingdom of heaven is here!” - Messiah is here, Jesus is here, Salvation is here!

**1 Corinthians 1:21** “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”

Commissioned:

**Romans 10:13-15** “<sup>13</sup>For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. <sup>14</sup>How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup>And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Preach the Gospel:

**John 3:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup>For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”

These men are simply passing on what they have received:

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>For I have delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

- Heal the sick; raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons.
- They were empowered to do the impossible! They were sent out with “credentials”.

**Matthew 19:26** “But Jesus beheld them, and said to them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”

- They would be facing & challenging demonic spirits / forces:

**1 John 4:4** “You are of God little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world.”

- All these things had been foretold:

**Isaiah 35:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. <sup>6</sup>Then shall the lame man leap as an deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.”

V: 3 No worldly means to accomplish this heavenly commission: total reliance on God.

**2 Corinthians 10:4** “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.”

**Zechariah 4:6** “Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, this is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts.”

- God doesn't “need” our help, in fact He would rather have us totally depend on Him.

Jesus would later say:

**Matthew 16:18** “... I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

- They were specifically put in a place of dependency, having to trust the Lord:

**Matthew 10:9-11** “<sup>9</sup>Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, <sup>10</sup>nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staves; for a worker is worthy of his food. <sup>11</sup>Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out.”

- No money pretty much meant no food unless someone was charitable and provided food for them. No extra coat meant that you were not prepared to sleep outside, depending on someone being hospitable taking them in. No staves, walking stick or shoes – you couldn't go very far unless someone gave you a ride.
- Sometimes God puts us in situations where we have to depend on Him alone.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, <sup>6</sup>in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

**2 Corinthians 5:7** “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

**Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him...”

V: 4 The Apostles depended on the hospitality of others as they ministered from town to town, but again they were depending on the Lord.

- In those days, for a town to refuse a guest was a breach of etiquette.

**Matthew 10:11-13** “<sup>11</sup>Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. <sup>12</sup>And when you go into a household, greet it. <sup>13</sup>If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.”

- The Apostles being ambassadors of Christ were to remain only with those who were “worthy”, perhaps those who trusted in Christ, or those who were deserving in some way, righteous, or God fearing.
- If it all worked out well then let your peace, your blessing rest upon that house as well.
- The typical Jewish greeting “shalom” – peace be with you... health, prosperity, strength, the blessing and favor of God...

V: 5 They weren't to compromise, if a town rejected their words, they were to warn the people and depart. They were to shake off the dust of that place as an act of judgment.

- Religious leaders would shake the “gentile” dust off their feet & garments prior to entering Jerusalem, so as not to defile the Holy city.
- This was something well known in their culture.

**Acts 13:50-51** “<sup>50</sup>But the Jews stirred up the devout and honorable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. <sup>51</sup>But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came to Iconium.”

V: 6 So off they went in obedience to Jesus' command – preaching and healing as they went.

Obedience is always noteworthy:

**Psalm 25:10** “All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.”

**Psalm 103:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children, <sup>18</sup>to such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them.”

- Instead of just one person doing all the miraculous works that Jesus was doing now He has 12 men doing all the same things, this is an exponential increase.

**John 14:12** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” (Not greater in magnitude, but greater in number)

V: 7-9 Herod the tetrarch: Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch, which means ruler of the fourth <sup>(1/4)</sup> part.

- Although Herod correctly associated John and Jesus together, it seems to be based on superstition.
- Jesus is getting attention from all quarters, and is being associated with the mighty prophets of old.
- Herod wants to see Jesus, seemingly to see some display of power. (Entertainment only)

Later Herod will see Jesus, courtesy of Pilate:

**Luke 23:8** “Now when Herod saw Jesus he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him.”

- At one point Jesus was warned by the Pharisees that Herod wanted to kill Him.

**Luke 13:32** “And He said to them, “Go tell that fox, behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.”

- Herod Antipas would see Jesus when He was sent by Pontius Pilate to judge Jesus only to try to find some fault in Him.
- Antipas never did find fault in Jesus; instead he mocked our Lord – who wouldn’t even talk to him, and was sent back to Pilate.

V: 10 The Apostles return from their preaching and healing missionary trip.

- As the disciples were returned from having been sent out, they testified about what God had done through them. Then Jesus took His disciples away to a deserted, secluded place near Bethsaida (House of fish)



V: 11 It seems that the point of a deserted place was to get some rest, but when the people knew or saw where He was headed they followed Him

“... *and He received them...*”

- Because He never rejects those who come to Him!

**John 6:37** “All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me; and the ones who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

**Ephesians 1:6** “To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He has made us accepted in the beloved.”

He beckons us to Himself:

**Matthew 11:28** “Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

V: 11b “... *He spoke to them...*” He gave them what was the most needful, He gave them the word of God, speaking about the kingdom of God and about salvation.

**Matthew 4:4** “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

- He healed them – meeting their practical needs as well.

**Matthew 14:14** “And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.”

**Psalm 86:15** “But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”

V: 12-17 The feeding of the 5,000 – a synopsized version:

- Feeding of the 5,000 is recorded in all 4 Gospels. **Matthew 14:15-21, Mark 6:35-44 Luke 9:12-17 - John 6:4-13.**

Describing the unfaithful during the exodus:

**Psalm 78:18-19** “<sup>18</sup>And they tested God in their heart by asking for the food of their fancy. <sup>19</sup>Yes, they spoke against God: they said, “can God prepare a table in the wilderness?” (This portion of Scripture seems to answer that question.)

V: 12 It’s late in the day, there are lots of people, multitudes. They’re in a kind of desolate, isolated place. Thinking ahead, the people need food and lodging.

- The disciples don't know what to do so they want to send the people away to fend for themselves. Jesus, the Good Shepherd wants to minister to them and receive them still.
- Our Lord's heart is to draw all men to Himself:

**1 Timothy 2:3-4** <sup>3</sup>For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

V: 13 Jesus gives them a hint, He prompts them: *"You give them something to eat."*

- He wouldn't have told them that if it weren't somehow possible that they could. I believe that it was just a test.
- They had just come off of a mission trip where they had healed the sick, cleansed lepers, raised the dead and preached the Gospel – but this was just different enough to throw them.

**John 6:9** Boy - barley loaves & two fish.

- They look past what could be the miraculous and indicate "we've only got 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread." They don't seem to know it but as Jesus will soon demonstrate, they've got the making of a miracle right there in front of them.

The disciples asked why they couldn't cast out a demon:

**Matthew 17:20** "So Jesus said to them, because of your unbelief: for assuredly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there; and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

- Instead of seeing what can't be, they / we should maybe start to see what can be - in the Lord.

V: 14-15 And look, there are 5,000 men and their families out there – perhaps as many as 20,000 people or more to feed.

- Jesus then begins to show them what is possible. First he had them sit down, a position of rest.

**Matthew 14:19** "Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass..."

- It was Spring time, there was probably lots of soft green grass, and they're all there right along the sea of Galilee. This sounds like a familiar picture:

**Psalms 23:1-3** <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup>He restores my soul He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

- He had them sit in groups of fifties.

Ours is a God of order:

**1 Corinthians 14:33 &40** “<sup>33</sup>For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” – “<sup>40</sup>Let all things be done decently and in order.”

V: 16 Jesus takes what little we / they have and He multiplies it!

**John 6:9** “There is a lad here, who has five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are thy among so many?”

- Barley loaves – barley bread, barley is food for livestock, poor mans bread.
- As with the water being turned to wine in Cana, the barley bread was probably the best bread anyone had ever had.
- *In between the blessing & the giving is the breaking.* (We all like the blessing and the giving part, but breaking is an integral part of the Christian walk.)

Same pattern for communion:

**Matthew 26:26** “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples...”

- Jesus gave to His disciples; they gave to the people.
- You can't give what you don't have.

**1 Corinthians 11:23** “What I have received, I have given to you.”

- As tired as Jesus' disciples might have been, they served. That's what disciples of Jesus do, they serve, just like their Lord.

**Matthew 20:28** “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

V: 17 “Filled” = “satisfied” – They were content, their need had been met.

- The leftovers indicated that there was more than enough, everyone had their fill.

**Isaiah 40:11** “He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”

**John 6:35** “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that comes to Me shall never hunger; and he that believes on Me shall never thirst.”

**John 4:13** “<sup>13</sup>... whoever drinks of this water <sup>(world)</sup> will thirst again: <sup>14</sup>But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst;...”

- Our only contentment is found in Jesus, Jesus is the only One who can satisfy.
- Until we are content in Jesus Christ, we won't be content in anything.

**1 Timothy 6:6** “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

V: 18 Jesus moves from the area near Bethsaida northward toward Caesarea Philippi, or “Banias” where this takes place. Arabs have a difficult time pronouncing the letter “P” so it comes out like “B” - so it would be “Panias” or the place of Pan.



**Matthew 16:13** “When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”

- Jesus was alone, praying when the disciples join Him. I'm just guessing that Jesus was up early spending time in prayer with the Father when the disciples kind of found Him. It doesn't say that they joined Him in prayer, just that they joined Him then they engaged in a conversation.

Jesus is a good example:

**Proverbs 8:17** “I love those that love Me, and those who seek Me diligently / early will find Me.”

- The back drop for this question is in the heart of the Gentile / pagan area, many pagan temples to Caesar, Baal, Pan, etc. The question is asked in light of the many options available and visible.
- It's pretty much the same for us, when we choose Jesus it is always over something else.

1. Molech = god of pleasure. (Recreation, team sports, hunting, movies, music, video games.)
2. Baal = god of intellectual prowess. (science, education)
3. Astureth = god of fertility / sexuality
4. Mammon = god of power / possessions. (overtime, materialism)
5. Baccus = god of libation, liquor, parties.
6. Pan = god of fields, forests, wild animals. (hyper environmentalism)

❖ **Caesarea Philippi** – Decapolis. Hellenistic Jews & Gentiles, ecumenism.  
Apostate / compromised      un-believers      peace with the world.

**James 4:4** “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

“*Who do crowds / people say that I am?*” – this is a question that people are still asking, and it’s the central question that people should still be asking.

1. The Muslims think that Jesus was a prophet, just a man.
  2. The Jews think that Jesus was a good rabbi, just a man.
  3. The Mormons think that Jesus is a created being, the ½ brother of Satan, equal in power.
  4. The Jehovah’s witnesses think Jesus is the arch angel Michael, a created being.
  5. None of them think that Jesus is God – meaning they are all wrong!
- The subject of Jesus is both controversial and divisive:
  - If you go to a public school graduation, or to a courthouse, or to the senate or congress of our country and pray to “god” – or to Buddha, of Allah, or Satan even – no one will say much – but when you pray in the name of Jesus everybody gets upset. Why? Because Jesus is the God of truth and of righteousness.

**Matthew 10:32-36** “<sup>32</sup>Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>34</sup>Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; <sup>36</sup>and a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.”

Jesus was a controversial figure then as He is today:

**John 7:40-43** “<sup>40</sup>Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, of a truth this is the Prophet. <sup>41</sup>Others said, this is the Christ. But some said, shall Christ come out of Galilee? <sup>42</sup>Has not the scripture said, that Christ comes of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? <sup>43</sup>So there was a division among the people because of Him.”

➤ There is division among the people because of Him to this day.

**1 Peter 2:6-8** “<sup>6</sup>Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup>Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders reject has become the

chief cornerstone,”<sup>8</sup> and “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense” They stumble, being disobedient to the Word, to which they also were appointed.”

V: 19 The disciples give Jesus similar answers, complimentary – but short of the truth.

- Eija – forerunner to the Messiah, did miracles.
- Jeremiah – weeping, compassionate.
- Prophet(s) – good teacher, a man of God, but like the rest just a man.
- The religious leaders approached John the Baptist asking him if he was Elijah as well:

They asked him if he was the Christ and he said no:

**John 1:21** “And they asked him, “what then are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “no.”

- The reason they were asking these questions, and or later expecting Elijah or “the Prophet” is because of Bible prophecy.

**Malachi 4:5** “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.”

**Deuteronomy 18:15, 18** “<sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.” - “<sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.”

V: 20 Jesus moves from generalities “who do the people say I am”, to specifics, He makes it personal – “who do you say that I am?”

- The difference between knowing about God to knowing Him personally.
- Who is Jesus to you?

“*The Christ of God.*” - The Anointed One of God.

**Matthew 16:16** “And Simon Peter answered and said, you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

- The answer to this question was definitive to Peter, just as it is to each of us.

Matthew's account records Jesus' response:

**Matthew 16:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered and said unto him, blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah: for flesh and blood has not revealed it unto you, but My Father which is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I say also to you, that you are Peter, and upon this

rock (this confession) I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

1<sup>st</sup>: this is not Peter’s wisdom, nor worldly wisdom, this is the wisdom that comes from our Father above.

**James 3:17** “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

2<sup>nd</sup>: He got a new name, he went from Simon, the son of Jonah to Peter.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.”

- Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Saul to Paul.

3<sup>rd</sup>: On this rock, on this confession that Jesus is Lord, He shall build His church.

**Romans 10:9-10** “<sup>9</sup>That if you shall confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

- Everything hinges on our view of who Jesus is; if He is God then we should tremble at His word, reverence Him in a way that leads to obedience to His word.
- We get all this from Matthew’s account, Luke records the abbreviated answer to who they say He is: “*The Christ of God.*” - God’s anointed One, the Messiah.
- The way that Luke records the question and the answer it seems like a ready made conclusion, but it’s a conclusion they’ve come to over time in a progression of events:
- They’ve been with Jesus now for 2 ½ years of His public ministry. They’ve seen Him heal the sick, restore sight to the blind, cleanse the leper, and even raise the dead. They’ve progressed from an emotional declaration:

**John 1:49** (Phillip) “Nathanael answered and saith unto Him, Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel!”

**Matthew 8:27** (Jesus asleep in the boat) “But the men marveled, saying, what manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!”

**Matthew 14:33** (Jesus walking on water through storm) “Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying of a truth You are the Son of God.”

- There had been prior confessions of faith, but this one is different.
- **Jesus responded to this confession.** Not long after, you leaving too?

**John 6:68-69** “<sup>68</sup>Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>And we believe and are sure that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

- This confession is different:
  1. The back drop, with all the other choices & options.
  2. It wasn't an emotional response, no dramatic events.
  3. This was a reasoned, studied, careful response, led by the spirit of God.

**Isaiah 1:18** “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

**1 Corinthians 2:10** “But God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

V: 21-22 Jesus commanded them not to tell everyone – just yet, it was an issue of **timing** as revealed by the context of these two verses. 4 things.

1<sup>st</sup> He must suffer many things.

2<sup>nd</sup> He must first be rejected by the nation as represented by the elders, chief priests, and scribes.

3<sup>rd</sup> He must be killed. All part of God's plan from the beginning.

**Acts 2:23** “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:”

4<sup>th</sup> He must rise again the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

V: 23 Describing a life of self-denial: We too must willingly come to the cross, just as Jesus denied Himself and suffered for us, we too must be willing to sacrifice our lives and our will.

- Deny yourself, take up His cross, and follow Jesus. Total denial of self, identifying with Jesus.

**Romans 6:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.”

**Psalms 37:4** “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

- Luke adds a word that neither Matthew nor Mark includes: “*daily*” – meaning it’s a lifestyle.

**Galatians 2:20** “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

- **KJV** translates this verse in the present tense: all the other versions place it in the past tense.

**Galatians 5:16** “This I say then: walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

**Romans 8:17** “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

**Philippians 3:10** “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death,”

V: 24 God’s economy of things is radically different than ours:

**Matthew 19:30** “But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.”

God’s ways are just different:

**Isaiah 55:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

- Jesus is talking to a group of men who would one day face martyrdom for their faith in Jesus, men who would face a choice to save their lives or to lose them.
- We need to read this and the following verses with the understanding that the men Jesus is talking to will die for their faith.

**Romans 14:7-8** “<sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and no man dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s.”

V: 25 All the money or accomplishments in this world cannot save us – only Jesus can.

**Matthew 16:26** “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

- There aren't enough riches or pleasures in all the world to make hell worth it. So many will trade away their eternity for the trinkets and bobbles of this life.

**Psalm 49:6-8** “<sup>6</sup>They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; <sup>7</sup>None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: <sup>8</sup>For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceases for ever.”

**John 3:36** “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life: and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him.”

V: 26 Whoever is ashamed of Jesus, denies Jesus – and is ashamed of His Word, denies His Word – of that person Jesus will be ashamed when He comes back in His glory.

**Matthew 10:32-33** “<sup>32</sup>Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whosoever shall deny Me before men, Him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.”

**2 Timothy 2:12** “If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us.”

V: 27 This appears to be a reference to the vision that John would see as it's described in the book of Revelation. John was the last to die among this group.

- The next topic in each of the synoptic Gospels is the same, it is the transfiguration, where Jesus is seen in His glory – in His kingdom.

V: 28 Jesus takes Peter, John, and James to the Mount of Transfiguration, to pray.

- Matthew & Mark: <sup>1</sup>Peter, <sup>2</sup>James, & <sup>3</sup>John. (Order)



- There are 3 times when these three men are singled out as an inner circle of sorts, separated from the rest of the Apostles & disciples for a special revelation:

1. **Luke 8:51** Raising Jairus' daughter back to life.
2. **Luke 9:28** The transfiguration of Jesus.
3. **Matthew 26:37** As Jesus was praying in Gethsemane.

- Jesus demonstrating His power over life and death; then anticipating His own death; then the reality of His impending death and ultimate submission to His Father's will.
- Jesus was teaching these men a valuable lesson as revealed in Philippians 3:10.

**Philippians 3:10** “That I may know Him, (transfiguration) and the power of His resurrection, (raising Jairus' daughter) and the power of His sufferings (Gethsemane), being made conformable unto His death.”

- Peter would later write:

**2 Peter 1:16** “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.”

- Typically previews at the movies make you want to see the movies themselves. Here Jesus gives Peter, James, and John a preview of what is to come.
- Matthew's Gospel refers to the “high” mountain which was probably Mt. Hermon.
  1. Proximity to Caesaria Phillippi / Banias.
  2. Highest mountain in the area.
  3. Mt. Tabor (traditional site) is too far away, past the sea of Galilee @ Nazareth, and it's not very high.

V: 29 As He prayed... it is almost as if He's been transported to heaven, to the throne room – which in a way he was.

- Luke: “Altered” (G-1096) ginomai, ghin'-om-ahee; to cause to be ("gen"-erate), i.e. (reflex.) to become (come into being), to be changed.

**Matthew 17:2** “And was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.”

- Matthew: “Transfigured” (G-3339) “metamorphoo”, metamorphosis, transformed. Changed from the inside outward.
- As we spend time in prayer; we too are changed from the inside out – we too are transported to the very throne room of God.
- Jesus is radiating light from within as opposed to reflecting it.
- Jesus radiated, Moses reflected. We later see a similar scene described in the book of Revelation.

**Revelation 1:13-17** “<sup>13</sup>And in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. <sup>14</sup>His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup>His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; <sup>16</sup>He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. <sup>17</sup>And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.”

**John 1:14** “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- We too can have a spiritual transformation - “transfiguration”:

**Romans 12:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

**2 Corinthians 3:18** “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

- As we surrender our body, mind, and will, the Lord transforms us from within, so that we’re no longer conformed to this world.
- As we behold Him in the Word (glass / mirror), we are “transfigured” – changed, by the Spirit from “glory to glory”.
- This is called sanctification, the process by which we become more and more like Jesus, which is God’s desire for us.

**1 John 3:2** “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”

- And it all begins with prayer: “*And as He prayed...*”

V: 30 Moses & Elijah appearing in glory, perhaps in a vision of their glorified selves & still recognizable for who they are. One day that will be us!

**Colossians 3:4** “When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

- Moses & Elijah: the Law & the Prophets, both pointing to the cross.

**Matthew 5:17** “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”

**Matthew 22:37-40** “<sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it, you shalt love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

- Jesus came not only to fulfill the law but to do what the Law could not do. He came to save us!

**Galatians 3:11** “But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith.”

- Moses and Elijah also represent 2 different dispensations (2-D).
  1. Moses: Those who die in faith yet live with Christ, seeing the promise from afar.
  2. Elijah: Those who would not see death, but be raptured.
- Unlike Matthew’s Gospel, Luke gives us the content of the conversation:

V: 31 “... *and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.*”

- The death and resurrection of Jesus was ordained of old, in both the Law and the Prophets:

**Acts 2:23** “Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”

- As with the raising of Jairus’ daughter, and later Himself, Jesus is in full control:

**John 10:18** “<sup>17</sup>Therefore does My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. <sup>18</sup>No man takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

“*Decease*” (G-1841). exodos, ex'-od-os; an exit, i.e. (fig.) death, decease, departing.

- **Moses** had led Israel out of their bondage in Egypt; **Elijah** had delivered them from bondage to false gods, but **Jesus** would die to set a sinful world free from bondage to sin and death. His decease, His exodus provides for ours...

V: 32 While all this is going on – the disciples take a nap... (overwhelmed?)

- The same thing would later happen in the Garden of Gethsemane:

**Luke 22:45** “And when He rose up from prayer, and was come to His disciples, He found them sleeping for sorrow.”

- Flesh and blood need to be changed before we can enter into heaven.
- Our poor weak fleshly bodies can neither watch with the Lord in His time of trial nor keep awake with Him in His glorification – we must be altered and greatly transformed before we can enjoy heaven.

**1 Corinthians 15:53** “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

**1 John 3:2** “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”

- When they came to – they’d had a spiritual awakening, they could see the glory of the Lord and the patriarchs with Him. One day we’ll be with Him in His glory and we too will have the ability to see Him in His glory.

**1 Corinthians 13:12** “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”

V: 33 As Moses and Elijah are departing from Jesus, Peter says...

**Luke 9:18-20 / Matthew 16:14-16** Peter’s confession drew a significant distinction that Jesus was far above the prophets as opposed to making them equal as he more or less implies here.

**Isaiah 46:5** “To whom will you liken Me, and make me equal, and compare Me, that we may be like?”

- “*As they were departing...*” Jesus is still there, so in offering to build 3 tabernacles he’s attempting to get Moses and Elijah to stay.
- If we’ve got Jesus we don’t need any one or any thing else.
- The mistake here wasn’t just to bring Jesus down to the level of Moses and Elijah; it’s the implication that Jesus wasn’t sufficient.

- Another aspect or possibility was that Peter implied: Just stay here in your glory so people can see, you don't need to go to the cross, you don't need to die.

V: 34-35 God interrupts Peter, cuts him off and the "Shekinah Glory" envelops them.

- Again God the Father is affirming His only Son's authority, affirming His ministry.

Similar affirmations - Turn to:

**Matthew 3:16-17** "16When He had been baptized, **Jesus** came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (**Father**)

**John 12:28** "Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

- God spoke to man through Moses & the Law, then through the prophets encouraging men to obey the law.
- Now God is speaking directly through His Son and saying, "listen to Him!"

**Hebrews 1:1-3** "1God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; 3who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"

*"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"* (Stop talking, listen!)

- According to Matthew's Gospel, when they heard God's voice they fell on their faces and were afraid:

**Isaiah 66:2** "... but to this man will I look, on him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."

**Isaiah 66:5** "Hear the word of the Lord, you that tremble at His word;..."

- This scene portrays a contrast between those who fear the Lord and those who don't:

**Proverbs 1:29-30** "29Because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: 30They would have none of My counsel: they despised My very reproof."

- This was a formative experience for Peter, he referred to this incident later in his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter:

**2 Peter 1:16-18** “<sup>16</sup>For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. <sup>17</sup>For He received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. <sup>18</sup>And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount.”

1. On Mount Sinai the Law was given.
2. At the sermon on the mount, the Law was explained.
3. Here on the Mount of transfiguration the Law was glorified.
4. Later on the mount, called Calvary – the Law would be fulfilled.

V: 36 When these things had passed, they kept all this to themselves, they didn't tell anyone. Why?

**Matthew 17:7-9** “<sup>7</sup>And Jesus came and touched them, and said, arise, and do not be afraid. <sup>8</sup>And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, but Jesus only. <sup>9</sup>And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man is risen from the dead.”

- Obedience, yielding to God's timing.
- Jesus only: The experience, seeing Moses, Elijah, and the Shekinah glory – the experience, the vision faded away – and what was left? Jesus, the incarnate Word of God remained.
- As wonderful as the experience was, as experiences can be – they are not the basis of our faith or the basis of a consistent Christian life, that is why God the Father said “hear Him.” Listen to the word of God, take heed to the Word of God.
- **Jesus only!** I want that kind of focus!

**Hebrews 12:2** “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that we set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

- We need to keep our eyes on Jesus!

**Philippians 3:14** “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

V: 37-43 A father and his demon possessed son: **Matthew 17:14-18, Mark 9:17-27**

V: 37-38 Jesus, along with Peter, James, and John have all just had this mountain top experience – like us when we’ve had a spiritual high, an up-lifting experience, many times we’re still kind of processing what we’ve just seen or heard when we go down the mountain and are confronted with the realities of life and it’s challenges.

- Sometimes we see the glory of God on the mountain top; but the valley is where the fruit grows.
- Jesus is now approached by a man whose son is demon possessed and there are two issues:
  1. Demonic possession that will destroy the child.
  2. The in-ability of the disciples to cast this demon out.

**Matthew 17:15** “Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is an epileptic / lunatic, and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.”

- Epileptic / Lunatic: “smitten by the moon.”
- Eastern culture was beset by superstition: If you slept outside and the moon happened to shine on your face, it would drive you crazy.
- Sore vexed / troubled, cast into the fire, cast into water.

V: 39-40 This demon is thrashing the man’s son, and the disciples were not able to help. Seizes him, cries out, convulses, foams at the mouth, bruises him.

**Mark 9:18** “And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

- One of the things I appreciate about this situation like many that the Bible describes is that we get to see what the situation is; that from a human perspective it is hopeless, we can do nothing, we try in various ways and that we’re allowed to see it that way – then God intervenes and demonstrates what He can do, that He might be glorified.

**Matthew 19:26** “... with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”

- Luke’s account doesn’t address why the disciples were not able to deliver this boy from demon possession.

- Jesus had empowered His disciples to heal the sick, raise the dead, and to drive out demons – all of which they had done.
- Suddenly they had become part of an un-believing generation and had lost the confidence that they needed in order to use their power. But apparently prayer and fasting were also lacking.

**Mark 9:28-29** “<sup>28</sup>And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “why could we not cast it out?” <sup>29</sup>So He said to them, this kind can come out by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.”

- This may indicate that the other disciples may have allowed their devotions, or their prayer time unto the Lord to slip a little bit while He up on the Mount.
- No matter what spiritual gifts we may have, their exercise is never automatic, we can't ever take the spiritual gifts for granted.

V: 41 All three Gospels say it the same way: “faithless” & “perverse” – “how long shall I be with you, and “bear / suffer” with you.”

- Faithless is self explanatory, there is a lack of faith, presumably on the disciples part.
- Faithless: (G-571) apistos, disbelieving, person that believes not, faithless, infidel, unbelieving.
- Faith, or faithlessness is the issue:

**Matthew 13:58** “And He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.”

**Hebrews 11:6** “Without faith it is impossible to please God, we must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

- Perverse: (G-1294) di-astrepho: to distort, misinterpret, or corrupt:--perverse (-rt), turn away.
- Webster's:
  1. to lead astray morally.
  2. to turn away from the right course.
  3. to lead into mental error or false judgment.
  4. to turn to an improper use.
  5. to misconstrue or misinterpret, esp. to deliberately distort.

**1 Corinthians 1:9** “God is faithful, by whom you were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**2 Timothy 2:13** “If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”

- Our faith waivers but His faith is constant and strong!
- What is the remedy? “... bring him to Me.” Take them to Jesus!

V: 42 As the boy was being brought to Jesus, the demon tries to prevent that, throwing him down, causing him to convulse and spasm.

[Turn to Mark chapter 9:](#)

**Mark 9:20** “Then they brought him to Him: and when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground, and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.”

- Mark fills in more of the conversation:

**Mark 9:21-22** “<sup>21</sup>So He asked his father, how long has this been happening to him? And he said from childhood. <sup>22</sup>And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

- Jesus knows the answers, He’s just drawing it out for everyone present.
- Casting him into the fire or into the waters – to destroy him.

[In rebuking the Pharisees, Jesus gives us insights about the enemy:](#)

**John 8:44a** “You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning,..”

**1 Peter 5:8** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour.”

- He doesn’t just ask for compassion upon his son – he asks for compassion for “us” – he is suffering right along with his son.
- Jesus then addresses the issue of faith directly with the father of the boy:

**Mark 9:23-24** “<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to him, if you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes. <sup>24</sup>Immediately the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.”

- This issue of faith was dealt with first.
- Jesus didn’t heal first, then talk about faith.

[This man faced the truth:](#)

**Psalms 51:6** “Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part You shalt make me to know wisdom.”

This man was broken:

**Psalm 51:17** “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”

**Mark 9:25-27** “<sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him, and enter him no more. <sup>26</sup>And the spirit cried out, and convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.”

- Jesus saw the people coming – running, not wanting to make a spectacle.
- Jesus rebukes the evil spirit, commanded the spirit to come out of him, never to return.
- Notice that it got worse before it got better, sometimes it’s like that!
- The introduction of God’s word initially brought pain, but eventually it brought deliverance.

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

**John 8:31-32** “If you continue in My Word, you are My disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” This boy was set free!

- Ultimately it was the spoken word of God that delivered this young man, and it was the personal touch of our Lord Jesus that lifted him up and restored him.
- When things are getting kind of crazy, when you feel like you are either drowning in the issues of life, or you’re getting burned – reach for His hand, incline your ear for His word – and He will set you straight.

[Back to Luke chapter 9.](#)

V: 43-45 Hidden / afraid:

**2 Timothy 1:7** “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

- They were amazed at the mighty power, “the majesty of God:”
- Mighty power, the greatness, the glory of God.

**Matthew 5:16** “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

- While they were amazed, considering all the things that Jesus had been doing He tells them:
- Jesus is re-directing their thoughts from the miracles, the experiences, back to His Word.
- Let these Words sink down into your ears: these sayings, these teachings, the spoken Word of God – hear that, let it sink into your ears.

He is still dealing with the issue of faith:

**Romans 10:17** “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

*“<sup>44</sup>... for the Son of man shall be betrayed / delivered into the hands of men.”*

- Because your faith is going to be tested, because He won't always be right there – they will need to rely on His word, rely on what He told them.
- They didn't get it, it was withheld from them until after His death and resurrection.
- It is funny how many of the issues we deal with only make sense in light of the cross!

**Luke 24:44-45** “<sup>44</sup>Then He said to them, these are the words which I spoke to you, while I was with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”

<sup>45</sup>And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.”

- Matthew & Luke both add “... and His resurrection.”
- In speaking of what He would endure, Jesus is also pointing toward that ultimate victory, which is His resurrection. – Ultimately Satan and his demons were defeated at the cross – that is where all of us were delivered from the power of sin and death – The Devil & his demons no longer have power over us!

V: 46-48 Who's the greatest? Then, just as today, there are always those disputes about who's the greatest, about hierarchy, and position within ministry – church politics.

Flesh?

**Romans 8:8** “So then those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

- Jesus turns all their aspirations upside down – unless you're like this child.

**Matthew 19:30** “But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.”

**Matthew 18:3** “... verily I say unto you, except you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

- Children are painfully honest, sincere, sensitive, perceptive, simple faith, trusting.

**Psalms 131:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. <sup>2</sup>Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.”

**1 Corinthians 1:26-27** “<sup>26</sup>For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: <sup>27</sup>But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;”

Paul hits the bottom line:

**Philippians 2:3** “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.”

- Our ministry is just to serve, God will appoint who He wants to be in charge or give direction.

**Psalms 75:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>For promotion comes neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. <sup>7</sup>But God is the judge: He puts down one, and sets up another.”

V: 49 John assumed that because this other person wasn't part of their company, that he didn't have or shouldn't use Jesus' authority – yet he was doing the work of the ministry.

- This unknown man had faith in Jesus, and was doing that which the disciples had most recently been unable to do – driving out demons.
- We need to guard against sectarianism: narrow-minded devotion to a particular sect, esp. in religion, in which case it is called denominationalism:

Moses gathered the 70 elders for a meeting:

**Numbers 11:26-29** “<sup>26</sup>But two men had remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those listed, but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup>And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” <sup>28</sup>So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, “Moses my lord, forbid them!” <sup>29</sup>Then Moses said to him, “Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!”

- What is this man doing?
1. Casting out demons. = Good.

2. In the name of Jesus. = Good!
  3. He wasn't one of us... so we forbid him. (from doing good in the name of Jesus...)
- There is a danger here that the disciples would be like the Pharisees, not examining what is actually happening here and how it is happening – blinded by sectarianism.
  - This man discovered something: There is power in the name of Jesus!

**Acts 4:12** “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

**Philippians 2:9-11** “<sup>9</sup>Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him the name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup>That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and the things in earth, and things under the earth; <sup>11</sup>And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

V: 50 Jesus makes the correction – “*Do not forbid him...*”

- No man can do a miracle in Jesus' name without Jesus being a part of it.
- No man doing such things would speak evil of Jesus.
- There is no neutral position, we are on one side or the other.

**Matthew 12:30** “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad. (Works against Me.)

- None of us, no denomination, or church has cornered the market on God, if God is working through another ministry – then God bless them! If people are coming to Christ and God is being honored, His word is being taught, then we should rejoice!
- Basically if it is being done for the Love of Jesus – it counts.

**1 Corinthians 15:58** “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

V: 51 He set His face, He was determined. When the time was come – not a matter of chance, a matter of God's perfect timing: “*He should be received up.*”

- Looking past His suffering to when He would be received up into Heaven after His resurrection.

**Matthew 20:18-19** “<sup>18</sup>Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death, <sup>19</sup>and shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify Him: and the third day He shall rise again.”

- Jesus set His face to go to Jerusalem for a purpose, His purpose, our salvation.

V: 52-53 Jesus sent messengers ahead of Him to a village of the Samaritans to make ready for Him, to prepare a place to stay the night and prepare a meal, but they didn't receive Him, because He was headed from there to Jerusalem.

- There was always contention and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans.
- When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well earlier in Samaria: When Jesus asked her for a drink of a water.

**John 4:9** “Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? For Jews have no dealing with Samaritans.”

Samaria:



V: 54 The disciples refer to Elijah who called fire down from heaven upon 2 groups of 50 soldiers and their respective captains – when evil king Ahaz sought to apprehend the prophet by force.

- Perhaps James and John thought they'd earn some brownie points for their zeal wanting to turn the Samaritans into French fries because of their unwillingness to receive Jesus.

Speaking of the Jews:

**Romans 10:2** “For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.”

V: 55-56 Jesus “rebuked” the disciples – a stern response to their suggestion, they should have known that this would be contrary to His purpose – what had they learned about turning the other cheek?

- This is where it is thought that they earned the nick name “sons of Boangernes” – “sons of thunder.”

“... *you do not know what manner of spirit you are of...*”

1. You're acting in ignorance.
2. The Devil is the destroyer, he's the one who condemns – destroying them would be doing his work.

**James 1:20** “For the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

3. The Son of Man is come to save, not to destroy.

**John 3:17** “For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”

**Luke 19:10** “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- **Acts Chapter 8** describes how the Gospel came to Samaria, how the Spirit was poured out, and lives changed and saved.
- So they went to another village where He was received.

V: 57-58 This person (Scribe / Matthew) has somewhat of an emotional response to Jesus, perhaps caught up in the moment – flying high spiritually – and strangely Jesus doesn't particularly encourage him, His response isn't “right on, let's go.”

- Jesus is not bemoaning His situation – oh poor me..., what He is saying is that He is free to do the Father's will, that He's not tied down or constrained – He can move about freely and do the Father's will.
- Jesus essentially tells him to consider his decision and to count the cost before he makes a commitment.

**Romans 12:1** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

**Galatians 2:20** “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

- Placing our lives on the altar, or taking up His cross is not a casual decision; it is to be carefully considered.

V: 59-60 The first guy came to Jesus and initiated his offer to follow Jesus, this 2<sup>nd</sup> person is different – Jesus initiates, Jesus call him out and says “follow me”

- More than likely his father wasn't dead yet; they bury their dead on the same day. This was a cultural aspect to bury father, meaning wait until he died, which could be some time.

**Matthew 10:37** “He that loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

**James 1:8** “A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

- He may have been saying “when I get my inheritance” / or the modern equivalent of “when I retire” then I can serve you.
- These last two men represent two extremes:
  1. The scribe who had not thought it through enough, making an emotional decision.
  2. The one who would bury his father who had thought it through too much, trying to figure it all the way out, reliant on provision he can see as opposed to walking in faith.
- Choices: Riches, relationships, or Jesus.

**Matthew 6:24, 33** “<sup>24</sup>No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

“<sup>33</sup>But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (priorities)

V: 61 This 3<sup>rd</sup> person is a combination of the previous two, – delaying doing the Lord’s will, something else to do first, “me first.” Jesus is looking for a total commitment.

**Matthew 10:37** “He that loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

**Luke 14:26-27** “<sup>26</sup>If any man comes to Me, and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. <sup>27</sup>And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

V: 62 Jesus responds to all three would be disciples.

- No man can plow in a straight line, do a good job if he is looking over his shoulder or looking back – particularly at the old life.

**Philippians 3:13-14** “<sup>13</sup>Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup>press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

“... *fit for the kingdom of God.*” – this does not refer to “salvation” as opposed to being useful in ministry and service.

- Our fitness for entering into the kingdom is in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus, our salvation is ours through faith in Him.

**Hebrews 10:38-39** “<sup>38</sup>Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. <sup>39</sup>But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”