

*Lesson Four*

# *The Cost of Discipleship*

Luke 8:40-9:62

Lesson 4 of 8

Through the Gospel of Luke

La Mirada Christian Church  
[www.LaMiradaChurch.com](http://www.LaMiradaChurch.com) ~ 562-943-2213 ~ [Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com](mailto:Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com)  
Podcast of Lessons available at [www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com](http://www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com)



# Small Group Discussion Time

Review of Lesson Three: Luke 6:17-8:39

## Group Guidelines

- ♥ We come from varying faith backgrounds, so please be thoughtful of denominational and religious differences.
- 📖 God's Word is our standard. We'll use the Bible - not personal opinion, popular teachers, or church tradition - as our guide for everything.
- 👉 We're all learning. Be gracious and patient with yourself and with others. No one has it all figured out.
- 🗣️ You don't have to share, but if you did the reading and the study this week, why not chime in? We all benefit from one another's thoughts and even questions. I bet you have something great to share! 😊
- 👂 Didn't finish the study this week? That's ok. Life gets busy. You're here! Yay you! This will be a good week for you to listen and perhaps jot down answers as others share.
- ⌚ Be considerate of your "slice of the pie" and how much time you are taking to talk. Share your thoughts, and allow time for others to do the same.
- 🕒 Keep an eye on the clock so you can return to our teaching session on time.  
(7:40pm for the evening group or 10:40am for the morning group)
  1. Open in Prayer
  2. Welcome new members 😊 *We're Glad You're Here!*
  3. Circulate the Attendance Page & Prayer Journal
  4. Review and Discuss

## To discuss and review...Do as many as time allows.

Discussion questions are marked with "\*\*\*\*" throughout the lesson. (See note on page 2 in the introduction pages.)

1. What does the Lord say to those who have need? (pg. 86)
2. What are we to do in response to this persecution? (pg. 86)
3. How do these verses challenge you to live a more loving, generous, and merciful life? Be specific. (pg. 87)
4. So, are we or are we not supposed to "judge"? (pg. 90 #9)
5. What does this say to you about the words that come out of your mouth today? (pg. 93 #7)
6. What should you be doing if you are truly a "doer of the word?" Use Luke 6:46-49 AND James 1:22-27 to support your answer. (pg. 93 #16)
7. Why do you think John even asked this question? Hadn't he already identified Jesus as the Messiah? Share your thoughts. List any verses from earlier in Luke to support your answer. (pg. 98 #5)
8. Read Jesus' closing remark Luke 7:23 "And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me." in several translations. What do you think Jesus is saying here? (pg. 99 #11)
9. Where else in the chapters we've studied so far has someone identified who Jesus is? (pg. 110 #2)
10. What does James say about encountering trials and testing of faith? (pg. 112 #14)
11. What does James compare a lack of faith to? (pg. 112 #15)
12. Share your answer from page 115 about who you related to most in this study so far.
13. Share any other observations you have from this lesson.

## General questions:

- How are you finding yourself growing deeper in your faith?
- Share a success related to the Bible study that you had this past couple weeks.

...Notes...

# Teaching Notes - Review of Lesson Three

Luke chapters Luke 6:17-8:39



# — Day One —

Read and take notes through Luke 8:40-9:27  
Today is an Active Reading Day

... Open with Prayer ...

**Get a map ready before you read**...Read and complete your Active Reading through Luke 8:40-9:27. Refer to the opening lesson of this study for a guide to doing an Active Reading time. Gooooood stuff ahead! Are you ready? I am! Let's go! ☺

# — Day Two part 1 —

Luke 8:40-56

Please note: Day Two will be divided into two days

... Open with Prayer ...

*Pray today with a focus on asking God to increase your faith.*

→ **Read Luke 8:40-56 before beginning today's study.** (Reminder: I'm using the ESV translation for this study.)  
This account is also recorded in **Matthew 9:18-26** and **Mark 5:21-43**

## Read Luke 8:40-42

1. Verse 40 reads, "Now when Jesus returned..." You're getting more familiar with the area in which Jesus is ministering. From your reading so far, suggest where you think Jesus is returning to?  
(Hint: Luke 4:33-37)

*(Mark it on your map)*

2. I cannot help but connect emotionally with this precious father and his desperation. Describe **who** Jairus was, **what** he did and what words or phrases in these verse give you a feel for **his emotional state**:

Who –

What –

His situation and emotions –

3. How does Jairus present himself to Jesus? (position, emotion, request, etc.)

What does this say about Jairus in light of his esteemed position as a synagogue ruler?

4. As a synagogue ruler, Jairus was in charge of the services and the building itself. There are two other synagogue rulers mentioned in the Bible – Acts 18:8 and Acts 18:17. What are their names?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

5. What three details do we learn about Jairus' daughter in Luke 8:42?

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is Jesus' non-verbal (at least not recorded in the gospels) response to Jairus? Instead of speaking what does Jesus begin to do?

7. \*\*\*Jairus, the town leader, has laid it all out before Jesus, humbling himself, pleading his case, and now Jesus has responded by moving with him toward his ailing daughter. In a few words, describe how you think Jairus must be feeling:

#### Read Luke 8:43-44

8. As Jesus is moving toward Jairus' home, surrounded by the crowd, what happens?

Before considering the account of this woman's experience, let's pause and consider Jairus again. He's waiting for Jesus, walking briskly with him, wanting with such passion to get Jesus to his daughter's bedside...can you feel his urgency?

The crowds are excited and buzzing with the hope of what they all must be anticipating to come. Jesus will heal this man's daughter! Today! We're all going to see another amazing miracle!

The shuffle of feet on the dusty path...others joining the crowd along the way...Can you sense the zeal of the crowd? Everyone is clamoring to get near and see it all unfold first-hand!

Can you sense the time-pressed emotions Jairus must be feeling? Relief? Anxiety? Hope?

Now. This.

Jesus stops.

Why?

Something has happened.

What?

The crowd begins to stop.

Puzzlement comes over the faces of those in the crowd.

...looking around...we were all moving. What's going on?

Everyone in the crowd was directing their attention Jairus and the miracle to come.

All in the crowd were focused on the certainty of what was surely going to happen at Jairus' home.

His sweet little daughter will be made well.

Maybe they knew her. Knew him. Felt for him. Maybe someone in the crowd had even tried to help her get well...offered a remedy, tended to her while Jairus was at the synagogue working?

Why are we stopped? What's happening...??



Jesus, come on...keep moving...we're so close...

9. Put yourself in Jairus' sandals...you're a parent, you've risked public humiliation as a town leader to fall at the feet of Jesus in hopes of a miracle. Your child is languishing close to death back at home... How might Jairus now be responding as Jesus pauses to deal with this woman from the crowd?

10. What three details do we learn about this woman in Luke 8:43?

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Re-read the first few words of both Luke 8:41 and 8:43. Compare how Jairus is introduced with how this woman is introduced. What do you notice?

12. Luke 8:41b Describe Jairus' approach to Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_  
13. Luke 8:44a Describe the woman's approach to Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_  
14. Luke 8:41c How does Jairus present his needs? \_\_\_\_\_  
15. Luke 8:44b How does the woman present her needs? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Read Leviticus 15:25-28

16. As women we have probably never experienced the degree of humiliation that this woman had been dealing with for all this time. How long had it been? \_\_\_\_\_

*In fact, this woman had been suffering with chronic bleeding for as long as Jairus' daughter had been alive. 12 years. The little girl, old enough to begin her years of womanhood is dying any minute...and this sickly woman had been dying slowly all these years waiting – hoping – to live life again.*

17. What does the Jewish law say about a woman and her discharge of blood?

So, for twelve humiliating years this woman had lived as “unclean.”

Humiliated.

Marginalized.

Weakened and financially emptied. She spent all her income on finding a cure. Perhaps, Luke as a physician in the region had even heard of her and her situation. No doctor could heal her. No home cures. No way on earth could be found to restore her body. As an “unclean” woman no one could even touch her without themselves becoming unclean. Untouched. Untouchable. She reaches out and does the one thing that could have gotten her shunned – she touched. She risked more than you and I could possibly imagine. Surrounded and yet unnoticed by the bustling crowd she reaches out trembling, hoping, one last possible chance that she could be healed...

18. What does the woman touch? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Read Numbers 15:37-41

19. \*\*\*What was the “fringe” of Jesus' garment and what was its purpose? Depending on your translation, the word may have been translated: border, edge, tassel, or hem. Be specific.

➤ Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

(continued on the next page)

➤ You'll find 3 positive commands and 1 negative command:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

The Hebrew word you read for "fringe" is translated from the Hebrew: **צִיְצִיט** (tzeet-zeet)

In ancient Israel, men wore four-cornered outer tunics with these tassels tied to the four corners. This outer garment became known as a tallit, and eventually evolved into the more formal prayer shawl. But, why tassels? These tassels were to remind each Jewish man of his responsibility to fulfill God's commandments. In fact, these tassels are tied into 613 knots to constantly remind them of the 613 laws of Moses, of which there are 365 prohibitions (The "thou shalt not" laws), and 248 affirmations (the "thou shall" laws). Because they were hanging on the four corners of your garment, in full view of everyone including yourself, they would be a constant reminder to walk according to God's Laws.  
[www.therefinersfire.org/talit](http://www.therefinersfire.org/talit)

Do an image search online for "tzitzit" and draw what you find:

*p.s. I'm not going to say that there's a special gift for anyone who texts me a photo of their tzitzit today...but I'm not not going to say that! Hee hee hee... 562.755.4964*

## — Day Two part 2 —

### Read Luke 8:45-46

20. What does Jesus ask? \_\_\_\_\_
21. Who answers and what does he offer as an explanation?  
|  
|  
|
22. Jesus reiterates that someone not only touched him (because of the closeness of the crowds) but that what had happened? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Let's look at the Greek!**

*The Greek word translated "power" is the word from which we get "dynamite." It literally means "power!" It's the same word we read in Luke 1:35 when the angel greeted Mary and explained what was to come...and how it would happen. It is also the word used in Luke 5:17. Do a word study on the word power and note anything interesting you find in your Bible study journal.*

### Read Luke 8:47

23. \*\*\*Luke notes the woman's emotional response. Can you feel it? What does she notice first? She was not \_\_\_\_\_ then she came \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ before Him and \_\_\_\_\_ why she had touched Him and how she had \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything more powerful than to be noticed? This woman who has had to purposefully remain out of the way, has been noticed. The God "who sees" – El Roi – has seen her. (Genesis 16:13) The God who heals – Jehovah Rapha – has healed her. She is no longer unclean. She is clean. She had reached out and touched the

very tassels that 1200 years ago God had commanded His people to wear as a constant reminder of their deliverance. And. She. Has been. Delivered.

Sick to well.

Unseen to seen.

Enslaved to delivered.

**Read Luke 8:48**

24. How does Jesus address the woman? \_\_\_\_\_  
*No longer "woman" no longer "unclean." Jesus elevates her in front of all to make all things clear. She is family. She is acceptable. She is precious to me...she is my daughter.*
25. What makes her well? \_\_\_\_\_ Sound familiar? Who else was made well by their faith? \_\_\_\_\_  
Lest anyone think the tassel made her well, Jesus makes sure all would know it was her faith.
26. Jesus sends her on her way, healed and restored with what phrase? \_\_\_\_\_

***Let's look at the Greek!***

*The Greek word for peace is "εἰρήνη" (i-ray-nay) and would have signified that she was not only healed but assured of her salvation through Jesus. Yes, your friend Irene gets her name from this Greek word!*

**Read Luke 8:49-50**

27. Jairus gets word from home...and word from Jesus.

The word from home: \_\_\_\_\_

*Put it in your own words:* \_\_\_\_\_

The word from Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_

*Put it in your own words:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Read Luke 8:51-53**

28. Describe the scene at Jairus' home:

29. \*\*\*What similarities do you see in the crowd's response (v53) here and Peter's response earlier in **Luke 8:45**?

30. What's the first word in **Luke 8:46** and **Luke 8:54** \_\_\_\_\_  
All the evidence our eyes can perceive is telling us one thing. BUT...

**Read Luke 8:54-56**

31. What does Jesus do? Describe this beautiful scene...

32. Again Jesus charges them NOT to do what? \_\_\_\_\_  
Note your answer to question #1. Jesus was not in Gentile region but in Jewish region.

**Review...**

33. After suffering for twelve years, when does the woman get her miracle? \_\_\_\_\_  
34. At the age of twelve years, when does Jairus' daughter get hers? \_\_\_\_\_

35. What does **2 Peter 3:9** say about timing?

What does **Psalm 31:14-15** say about timing?

What does **Ecclesiastes 3:1-11** (especially v11) say about timing?

36. What can you learn today about Jesus' timing?

### ...In Closing...

Why did God allow that woman to suffer for twelve years? Why did God allow that child to become so sick that she died? Why? Do you wrestle with what God allows in our lives? Do you wonder why He waits? Why He seems late – even totally absent?

Surely Jairus had wondered. Certainly the woman suffering with this issue had wondered.

Consider the possibility that at the heart of the question of “why this way and not that?” is actually another concept and that is you asking God to be “God” as defined by you.

When we ask why – a totally normal and honest question – what are we truly asking? ... “Why aren’t you being God in the way I want you to be?”

But if God did [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] in your way, in your time, by your standards, then not only would God cease to be God, but you would have no need for faith. And what did Jesus repeatedly affirm in those with whom He work? Faith. “Daughter, your **faith** has made you well.” And to Jairus “Do not fear...**believe** and she will be well.” And earlier in Luke the paralytic, the leper, the sinful woman...all restored. Why? **Faith**.

Why bother with faith if God just answers your plea in the very moment and in the very way you wish it. Take a moment today to consider this. Yes, by all means, ask the hard questions. Wrestle with the whys. And, know, my sister that God hears, God sees, and God is not slow in keeping His promises. Whether you’re waiting like Jairus or being tended to like the woman...God is on the move to complete His will.

Trust His timing. Have. Faith.

# — Day Three —

Luke 9:1-9

... Open with Prayer ...

*Pray for a ready and willing spirit to do the will of God and share His good news with others.*

Have your Active Reading notes handy as you begin today's lesson. **Re-read Luke 9:1-9** before you begin.

Today's passage marks the beginning of a shift. Jesus' disciples must own their role, their calling, their decision and its cost. Individual disciples must be trained and challenged to grow in their faith. And the answer to the most important question must be given: "Who is Jesus?" Note the shift in focus, the growing intensity, and the movement Jesus takes toward Jerusalem as we continue through Luke chapter nine.

**Read Luke 9:1-9** For more details read **Matthew 10:5-15** and **Mark 6:7-13**

1. Jesus calls the twelve and gives them:

➤ P \_\_\_\_\_ and A \_\_\_\_\_ over...

➤ D \_\_\_\_\_ and D \_\_\_\_\_

Let's make a distinction between power and authority.

A horse has power. The rider has authority.

A linebacker has power. The coach has authority.

2. \*\*\*What other examples can you think of?

The word "power" in the text is a familiar one "δύναμιν" (dynamis) and means in this context: "spiritual ability" or might.

The word "authority" is "ἐξουσίαν" (exousia) and means the "right to exercise the power."

So, the disciples now as apostles have both the "might" and the "right" to go with Jesus' message.

3. Where has Jesus already demonstrated His power and authority over demons and disease? List two or three examples from Luke:

Include the name of the disciple(s) who would have been present at these miracles.

4. **Read Luke 5:10** What did Jesus say to Simon? Write Jesus' words here:

*Up to this point the disciples have merely been watching Jesus do the catching...that is all going to change!*

5. Read **Luke 4:43** What did Jesus declare was His purpose? Write it here:

6. How does this compare with **Luke 9:2**?

**Read Luke 9:3**

7. Why do you think Jesus gave these instructions?

*Are you a light or a heavy packer? For me, I've always found a level of pride (I know, I'll confess it!) in packing as lightly as possible! I love not having to check any luggage! Unlike my crazy friend who said she literally brings a suitcase for just all her shoes! What?? Then there's Jesus' instructions. He really thins it all out! And yet, with no extra anything to bring along He helps the freshman apostles stay focused on their mission.*

**Read Luke 6:13-16**

8. \*\*\*Note back in this passage when Jesus called the disciples "and chose from them twelve...apostles."\*
- The Greek word for disciples is "μαθητάς" (mathetas) and means "followers" or "students."
  - The Greek for apostles is "ἀποστόλους" (apostolos) and means "sent ones."
- Were all who were selected as disciples also named as apostles? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not do you think?

**Read Luke 9:4-5**

9. Jesus is **sending out** His disciples. Which makes them now, officially what? \_\_\_\_\_
10. In sending out the disciples as apostles Jesus gives further instructions on where to stay and what to do if the message is not received. Read **Matthew 10:14-15** for more details. Summarize that here:

Does any part of this seem odd to you? Explain...

11. **Read Acts 13:44-52** Note any similarities from this passage to Jesus' instructions in Luke:

**12. Read Matthew 10:5-6, 14-15**

Where does Jesus instruct the twelve to go: \_\_\_\_\_

Where are they NOT to go: \_\_\_\_\_

➔ **UNDERLINE THIS IN YOUR BIBLE. We will get back to it.**

**Read Luke 9:7-9**

13. Herod is "perplexed" about what exactly?

14. What three options are suggested as to the identity of Jesus?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ (v7b)
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ (v8a)
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ (v8b)

15. At the root of Herod's question about Jesus is the question everyone needs to ultimately answer:

"Who is this?" Going back to our previous lesson "Amazed by Hope" are you seeing again the tendency of people to get stuck on being "amazed?" What does Herod need to do if he truly wants to know who Jesus is? (You might find your notes from the Lesson Two teaching helpful.)



Herod "sought to see" Jesus but doesn't get to until later in Jesus' life. Read more on that in **Luke 23:8-11**

### ...In Closing...

A friend of mine gave me a great little coffee cup last week. On it reads: "All I need is a little bit of coffee and a whole lot of Jesus." Isn't that pretty close to what these twelve got? They brought just a little bit of what they needed for the road (not coffee sadly) and got a "whole lot of Jesus" by way of the power and authority He gave them!

As the disciples were being sent out, they were given power and authority and yet, Jesus instructs them to bring next to nothing along with them. They were empowered by Jesus' word and yet powerless in the world's view. They had nothing on them or with them that could distract from the essential message - nothing to hinder their travels or overly support them. They were depending on the spiritual power from Jesus and the hospitality of their potential hosts. Up to this point, the disciples had only seen Jesus' miracles. Not only had they not done anything of note, they hadn't really been given much in the way of instruction considering the teaching they were yet to receive. Surely Jesus knew very well that the disciples were barely ready to go. But He sent them anyway. As is. And just in case they might be tempted to pack heavy, He instructs them to go light, really light! Jesus doesn't give them a seminar on how to win friends and influence people. He doesn't give them a check-list of tips on how to effectively share the gospel. They don't even have the written word of God that you and I have access to! Just think of all the Bible verses you'd have highlighted if you went out to "proclaim the kingdom of God" today! But these twelve...not even an extra tunic or pair of sandals! Just the knowledge of what they've seen and heard so far. And that was enough!

Sister, let this be our hearts today! Don't think you need more. Seriously, you have more than enough already! You may not have all the answers but you have your personal faith. You may not have Bible verses at the ready, but you have your experience with Jesus. Let that be enough! Let Jesus be enough. Go lightly on worldly things and heavy on Jesus! Remember, among the men who Jesus sent out that day were ones who would deny Him, doubt Him, and even betray Him! But they were sent! And they went! And the world would never be the same! A little bit of ready and a whole lot of Jesus. Let that be your heart today...Jesus, I will go! Ready, or not, here I come!

# — Day Four —

Luke 9:10-17

... Open with Prayer ...

Pray today with a focus on asking God to reveal his nature to you.

This miracle is significant for several reasons. Notably, it's the only miracle recorded in all four gospels. Take time to read each account. You'll notice interesting similarities and even more interesting differences. The details all come together to give a beautiful account of this important miracle. I've marked with an asterisk the gospel in which special attention was given. In the final column draw some conclusions about what this aspect of the miracle says to you about the nature and character of Jesus. → **Lay open your lesson pages so you can see the table across both pages.**

	Matthew 14:13-21	Mark 6:30-44
After what sad event does this happen?	*	
Where does it take place? <i>Note any details describing the location. Locate it on your map.</i>		
When does it take place? (Specific holy day mentioned)		
Details about Jesus		<i>How does Jesus feel toward the multitude? (v34)</i>
What Jesus says to the disciples		v31
Details about the disciples – any named specifically? Do they understand the significance?		Mark 6:52
What the disciples say to Jesus <i>What does this imply about their mindset, beliefs, focus?</i>		
Details about the people in general... <small>Note: while 5000 men were counted, history tells us that there could have been upwards of 20,000 counting women and children!</small>		
Any other people mentioned?		
The result of the meal? <i>Include any details of note to you along with the repeated phrase in each of these verses.</i>	v20	v42



**Something to think about...**

In Hebrew tradition, there is a specific prayer given over bread at a meal. It is the most common of all Jewish prayers. At this breaking of the bread Jesus was acknowledging God as provider and was also pointing to the most famous of all bread breaking – the Last Supper. Note the similarities in Jesus’ words in this account with His words and actions at the Last Supper. At the Last Supper Jesus also took the bread, said a blessing, broke it, and gave it out.

Read the account in **Luke 22:19**.

Here is the wording of the Jewish blessing over bread:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי      Baruch ata Adonoy,  
 אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם      Eloheinu melech ha-olam,  
 הַמּוֹצֵיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.      ha-motzi lechem min ha-aretz.

Blessed are you God, King of the Universe,  
 Who brings forth bread from the earth.

Luke 9:10-17	John 6:1-13	What does this say about the nature and will of Jesus?
*		
	*	
v17	v12	

1. In **Luke 4:21**, after reading from Isaiah, what does Jesus proclaim?

*In fact, throughout the gospel accounts are multiple accounts where Jesus continues to demonstrate that He is the fulfillment of all that the Old Testament had pointed to. This account of the Feeding of the Five Thousand is one such account. Keep an eye open for any other occurrences that come up in the gospel that point back to Jesus as the fulfillment from the Old Testament. Jesus is the new and better prophet. In Numbers, we see the prophet Moses and how he dealt with God's people.*

Compare **Numbers 11:1-23** to the gospel accounts in **Luke 9:10-17** and **John 6:1-13**:

2. To whom do we turn to supply our need? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do you notice about the huge need compared to the supply on hand?
4. What similarities in the people's response in Numbers and the disciples' response to the need in the gospels do you see?

*While definitely more intense in Numbers than in the gospel, the underlying emotion is similar: dissatisfied about the now and dubious about the future.*

5. \*\*\*John's gospel goes further into Jesus' response and the deeper meaning that Jesus was showing in this miracle. What does Jesus say about the past (the story of manna) and who He is?

**Read John 6:31-36**

...In Closing...

Having just returned from their first mission to proclaim the kingdom of God, the disciples are with Jesus, discouraged and shocked at the news about John the Baptist, weary from their travels, and wanting to get away before the trip to Jerusalem for Passover. But not so. The crowds clamor to get to Jesus. "No rest for the weary," right? But Jesus knows that something *invigorating* is about to happen. Something they'll never forget and always will be able to look back on and remember – they experienced the hand of God provide through Jesus! Not only does Jesus miraculously provide bread to eat until they all have their fill, not only are there enough left-overs to fill a basket (one for each weary disciple, I might add!), but Jesus tells them that while this bread might satisfy for today...He is the Bread of Life that will satisfy forever.

Sister, are you longing for satisfaction? Weary from doing good and worried that things won't come together? May I leave you today with this sweet reminder: you are so seriously loved by your Father that He will not only tend to you like a shepherd over sheep, He'll continue to give you above and beyond what you need. He will fill your physical needs and better still, He will completely satisfy you with His abundant life.

Trust Him today even as you confess your tendency to look around and worry at the lack in your life. Come to Him with your, "I don't think this is going to work out, but..." and be honest and watch Him provide. What a powerful testimony God is ready to give you as you trust Him to provide!

# — Day Five —

Luke 9:18-27

... Open with Prayer ...

Pray today that you will understand more fully who Jesus is and what that means for your life today.

## Read Luke 9:18-20

For more details, please read **Matthew 16:13-16** and **Mark 8:27-29**.

1. Jesus was praying alone. This is the fourth time Luke records that Jesus prayed before a major point in His life. At what other occasions (specific or general) had Jesus prayed? And what happens after this fourth time of prayer?

**Luke 3:21** \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 5:16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 6:12** \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 9:18-20** \_\_\_\_\_

As you continue through Luke, make note of other occasions when Jesus prays and what significant event follows.

2. After praying, what does Jesus ask? \_\_\_\_\_

3. The disciples answer naming the same three people Herod had mentioned earlier:

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

4. Then Jesus presses in and asks... \_\_\_\_\_

Underline the word “you” in your answer. Actually, double underline it, circle it, highlight it...etc.

In the Greek, the word “you” is emphasized. If Jesus was from the South He might have asked, “Who do **all y’all** say that I am?” It was a question directed emphatically at his close disciples.

5. Peter gets a gold star! This is the fifth time that Jesus has been correctly identified. By whom has He been called “Messiah?” (also translated “Christ”)

Luke 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 2:26 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 4:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 4:41 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 9:20 \_\_\_\_\_

6. There’s nothing quite like getting the answer right, but getting it right in front of your classmates and getting a big affirming nod from the teacher?...that’s the best, right? Read what Jesus says to affirm Peter in **Matthew 16:17-19**, summarize what Jesus says to Peter:

So, Peter rightly identifies Jesus for who He was, but is he – are they all – ready to get the next part right? Hmmmm...let’s see....

**Read Luke 9:21-22**

7. What does Jesus say is yet to come? Based on your familiarity of the account of Jesus' life to come, list below each phrase some details about what is to come.

- S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_
- Be R \_\_\_\_\_ by
  - E \_\_\_\_\_ and C \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_ and S \_\_\_\_\_
- Be K \_\_\_\_\_ and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day...
- Be R \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus gets really real about His destiny. He spells out very specifically what is coming. And the disciples dutifully take notes and ready their hearts for it all, right? Hmmm...

**Read Luke 9:23-27**

After laying out what is in store for Himself, Jesus goes on to instruct His disciples – all of them, not just the twelve - what it truly means to follow Him. At the shores of Galilee, Peter, James and John had answered the call and had “left everything.” Every one of the other Twelve disciples did so as well. But what exactly would that look like? They had been given power and authority over demons and diseases. They had returned from their mission to “proclaim the kingdom of God.” Now what? Isn’t that all there is? Let’s keep doing that! That was pretty awesome. But, Jesus makes a shift now and starts really letting everyone know what the cost of true discipleship is:

8. \*\*\*What three things does Jesus say in verse 23 must be done by the true follower? After each, write your explanation of what this means on a practical and spiritual level in your life today:

- 1) D \_\_\_\_\_ -

*This takes serious self-control. Denying self is directly opposed to our natural bent. From the time we’re born we’re in a constant pull to meet our own needs. Denying self isn’t just self-control, saying, “I wont!” Denying self goes to the core of who we are and keeping that in check with who God wants us to be. You deny yourself as an act of faith...faith in the power of Christ. But it’s even more. Just saying “No!” is not enough. Any worldly sort can do that. The difference for the follower of Christ is in the answer to the question, “Who do you say I am?” If you acknowledge that He is the Messiah, then all you do is no longer for your glory but for His! If I deny myself will I get the glory or will Christ get the glory? It’s not enough to deny yourself if it is in the end self-glorifying. Deny yourself so that Christ will get the glory. John the Baptist modeled this for us, “He must increase...I must decrease.” (John 3:30)*

- 2) T \_\_\_\_\_ -

*Don’t lose the impact of these words by filtering them through the symbolism of the “cross” as you know it today – hanging on your necklace, dangling from your keychain or sparkling in the window as stained glass décor. Anyone hearing Jesus’*

words as He spoke them that day would have shuddered at the mention of a cross. The cross was a hideous instrument of torture and death meant to terrify, humiliate and warn. Lest you are hoping I'll offer a Greek lesson here that lets us relax about the wording, No! Jesus wasn't using some figurative word for "cross." The word here in Greek is "σταυρός" (stauros) and is the exact same word used later in the gospels when Jesus is nailed to the cross for you and for me. Perhaps if Jesus were sitting with us today, He'd say, "Pick up your noose." or "Electric chair" or "gas chamber"...what instrument of torture and death can you imagine to help you grasp the horror of what Christ's words would have conveyed? "You want to follow me? Prepare for death. And not just death, but carrying the instrument of death with you so that you are ready at any moment to die for Me." I think we have lost the impact of what it truly means to follow Christ. We're comfortable in our western American Christianity. Our lives are not being threatened. Will you today take to heart these words and pray for a solemn appreciation of the cost of taking up your cross for the sake of Christ?

3) F \_\_\_\_\_ -

When Peter first answered the call, dropped his nets, and followed Christ, could he have possibly fathomed all that that decision meant? Peter fell at the feet of Jesus in the boat that day and after acknowledging his sinfulness he abandoned all to follow Jesus, and that was just the beginning.

9. \*\*\*Which one of the above feels most natural to you to do? Which feels most challenging? Why?

10. **Luke 9:24** Jesus speaks in a paradox when He says, "Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." What does this mean for you today in light of denying yourself, taking up your cross and following Him?

Looking back to Jesus' earlier prophecy that he'd lose His life, little did the disciples know that He would not only be losing His life and gaining it back but that by losing it and gaining it back He's enable each of us to do the same.

11. **Luke 9:25** Jesus uses strong hyperbole to help us grasp the ridiculousness of "gaining the world" at the cost of our very soul (Mark 8:36). What are some examples of the temporary worldly things that people seem to be so willing to exchange for eternal permanence? (Please note today's "In Closing" as a follow-up on this.)

12. **Luke 9:26** How is Jesus, the "Son of Man" going to return? (Hint: three glories!)

13. Here's another prophecy! Jesus will return. In order for someone to return he must first: \_\_\_\_ (not a trick question!) That must have been hard to comprehend for the disciples. Jesus was so present. So physically near. How could they grasp that He would have to leave?

14. Are you feeling the shift in Jesus' wording? From Luke chapter one to Luke 9:20 how many times did Jesus refer to His own death or the death of His disciples?

Write the number of times here: \_\_\_\_

(Hint: none! Yes, I know, that was a pretty big hint. You're welcome.)

How many times has He referred to His own death or the death of His disciples in these past seven verses of **Luke 9:21-27**?

Write the number of times here: \_\_\_\_ (Hint: Ha. Go look it up! Nice try.)

15. \*\*\***Luke 9:27** Recall that at this time Jesus was speaking not just to His apostles, but to all the disciples listening (**Luke 9:23**). So, when He says “there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God” who do you think He was referring to? Why?

*We will be reading more on this in tomorrow’s study.*

### ...In Closing...

If you were to categorize the top three most popular themes in fiction, time-travel based stories always top the list. From movies like “Back to the Future” to classics like “The Time Machine” we all have a fondness for the idea of going back or forward in time. What is it about going forward especially that appeals to us? If I can know the future, I’ll be better prepared today or I’ll not worry about things or I’ll make changes! Right? Actually, if the disciples are any indication of how you or I might respond, then I think not. We might armchair quarterback the scene and think that surely we’d have the presence of mind to grasp not just who Jesus was - like Peter did through the power of God (Matt. 16:17) – but what was to come. I mean, Jesus completely lays it all out in this account. And yet, as we’ll see, they are woefully clueless about the realities before them and Jesus’ entire scenario sails over their heads like the winds across the Sea of Galilee.

“But I’d be different.”

(I know. You’re thinking it, aren’t you? It’s hard not to.)

Have you ever just wondered why, if God is all-powerful and all-knowing, why doesn’t He just write it in the stars: “I’m God! I exist! Worship me!” or why doesn’t He let us know clearly exactly what is to come for us personally? Like opening a fortune cookie and finding “You’ll get that job after all.” or “You’re going to move in three years after your kids finish school.” written in God’s own penmanship. I think we can catch a glimpse of the wisdom of God in today’s reading.

Jesus literally laid it out blow by blow for the disciples. He told them exactly what was to come. In Matthew’s account, Peter, upon hearing this, pulls Jesus aside and rebukes Him for suggesting such things as His suffering and death! What Jesus says to Peter says it all for me, and perhaps for you today as well: “...you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

That’s where our problem lies, isn’t it? We’re like Peter. We’re earthly-minded. We are literally doing the very thing that Jesus warned against in Luke 9:25. You were probably thinking that verse was about those selfish billionaires or politicians or movie stars and all their glory-seeking, fame-grabbing, and money-hoarding. While it’s true they are in danger of “gaining the world” at the cost of their soul, but so am I in my attempt to keep Jesus on my personal agenda – if I don’t deny myself, take up my cross, and follow him.

## — Day Six —

Read and take notes through Luke 9:28-45

Today is an Active Reading Day

... Open with Prayer ...

Today’s reading is relatively short. Take time to write great notes!

# — Day Seven —

Luke 9:28-36

... Open with Prayer ...

## Read Luke 9:28-36

Read also **Matthew 17:1-8** and **Mark 9:2-8** for more details.

1. Who is with Jesus at this amazing event? \_\_\_\_\_
2. There is some disagreement among scholars as to where this mountain is, but most agree it is Mt. Hermon. Locate Mt. Hermon on your Bible map. *Note: Mt. Hermon is the northernmost point of the land given to the tribes of Israel. Use a map of Old Testament regions to locate it.* Considering its location and elevation (9,000ft +) what lands would they have been able to see from the peak?
  - To the North \_\_\_\_\_
  - To the South \_\_\_\_\_
  - To the East \_\_\_\_\_
  - To the West \_\_\_\_\_Mt. Hermon is in what country today? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why does Jesus go up to the mountain? \_\_\_\_\_
4. \*\*\*List detail from each of the gospel writers to describe Jesus' appearance:

Matthew

Mark

Luke

### **Let's look at the Greek!**

*Mark's word choice is interesting. The Greek word he uses for "no one" is the word "γναφεύς" (gnay-pee-us) from which we, through interesting etymology, get the word "fuller" – someone who launders clothes. He's saying, that no one on earth, not even the most skilled launderer could have gotten those close any brighter – even with bleach! You know you relate, right? Even more interesting is the etymology of that word. It came from the Greek meaning "to tease" (as in tease the dirt out of a cloth). Ever heard of the Fuller Brush Company? The founder's name was Alfred C. Fuller. He could have been a smith (metal worker), or a miller (grain worker), but isn't it interesting that he became the founder of a cleaning company...with a name like "Fuller" I think it's apropos! (There's no direct biblical correlation here to the company, just an interesting side note I thought you'd enjoy about the origin of the Fuller Brush.)*

5. Read **Revelation 7:14** The "Lamb" refers to Jesus. How are the clothes made white?  
| \_\_\_\_\_
6. What does blood normally do to clothes? \_\_\_\_\_ But the blood of Jesus is no ordinary blood! It has the power to supernaturally cleanse.
7. **Read Daniel 7:9b and 7:13-14** Like Jesus, the "Ancient of Days" (referring to God) is clothed how?  
| In 7:14, what does it say about His dominion?  
| \_\_\_\_\_

8. **Read Luke 9:30** Who appear with Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
9. When was the last time Moses or Elijah came up in Luke?

*Well, this oughta clear up any questions!*

**Moses and Elijah are pillars of the faith....and not just in Christianity**

**Moses** was one of God's most faithful servants. **Deuteronomy 4:10** says, "And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face." Moses is referred to today by the Jews as the greatest prophet. The great "Deliverer" of the people from slavery in Egypt. In Islam, Moses is also highly revered. He is mentioned in the Quran more times than any other individual. **Elijah** is also revered by Jews and Muslims to this day. He is called the "most beloved prophet" by the Jews and by Muslims, Elijah is honored as a great prophet and is remembered for his powerful preaching.

But, Moses and Elijah, as worthy of honor as they were, were not as great as Jesus.

10. \*\*\***Read Hebrews 3:3-6** What does this say about Jesus as compared to Moses?

11. **Read Luke 9:31** What are Moses and Elijah speaking about with Jesus? His \_\_\_\_\_  
*Depending on your translation, this word is rendered: "decease", "exodus", "departure", "death." The Greek word translated is "ἐξοδον" (ex-o-dus). Moses, the author of the book of Exodus, the great deliverer, is standing with Jesus the Greatest Deliverer! Moses delivered God's people from bondage in Egypt, Jesus will deliver from bondage to sin!*

12. Verse 31 also says this departure would be accomplished where? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What was Jesus heading to Jerusalem to accomplish? Not sure? Read **Luke 9:22** (He had already told them!)

14. **Read Luke 9:32-33** Summarize what the disciples see:

What does Peter suggest? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Luke clarifies that this was not the correct response by adding "not knowing what he said."*

**Let's look at the Greek!**

*The word translated "tent" (ESV) should not call to mind an old Boy Scout camping tent. The word is "σκηνή" (skay-nay) and is like the word in the Old Testament for tabernacle. Moses was the one originally given the plans for this Tabernacle – God's house. Interestingly, this is the same word John uses in his gospel when he introduced Jesus, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14) So, Peter, while misguided in his idea, wants to set up a dwelling to honor the moment and the people. But this is not God's plan. Jesus is on a mission, remember?*

15. \*\*\***Read Luke 9:34-36** Peter is still sharing his grand plan when...  
 Describe the scene including the words God spoke...which should sound familiar! What previous time have these words been spoken? \_\_\_\_\_ (Hint: Luke 3)

And draw it...



Who could forget an encounter like this? Wow! Peter surely remembers it clearly! He goes on several years later to recall the event in writing...

16. **Read 2 Peter 1:16-18** Write key details from this passage that help you understand the account in Luke even better:

Go back and add any details to your drawing, and why not share? I'd love to see what you drew! Text it to me at 562.755.4964 or [Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com](mailto:Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com)

p.s. If you can resist continuing on in 2 Peter after verse 18 you have more self-control than I! I was so taken by Peter's words I gobbled up the rest of the book! It's so powerful to read especially as you consider what he had seen and experienced with Jesus!

17. **Read Luke 9:27** What would the disciples see? \_\_\_\_\_

18. Use descriptions you noted back on question #4 in today's lesson to offer details that confirm this moment as seeing at least an aspect of the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:27 doesn't refer to seeing the ultimate kingdom of God (our permanent heavenly destination).

*As soon as God's voice ceased, so did the presence of the great prophets. Only Jesus remained and with Peter, James and John they head down from the most amazing "mountaintop experience" in all of history. I've had amazing, life-changing times away at camp in the mountains before. All I want to do at the end of the time is to come home and tell everyone about every last detail. Maybe you can relate?*

19. **Read Luke 9:36** What do the disciples do after this experience? Why? (Keep in mind Jesus' expressed mission and where He was heading) Use any details from Matthew or Mark that help complete the picture here for you:

...In Closing...

"Asked and answered!" When a witness has already answered a question an attorney can't keep asking it. The objection "asked and answered" will be given. But in the case of Jesus, we get the question asked and answered over and again throughout the gospel! The Pharisees ask after Jesus forgives sins. The disciples ask after Jesus calms the storm, "Who then is this?" Herod asks after hearing more and more of Jesus' miracles and following. As we read in yesterday's passage, Peter correctly answers Jesus' own question, "Who do you say I am?" And now today, we get God's answer! And while a courtroom attorney might use this objection to end questioning, Jesus continues, as we will see, to invite it! Ask! I'll answer! Seek! I'll show you!

# — Day Eight —

Luke 9:37-45

... Open with Prayer ...

## Read Luke 9:37-43

Read also Matthew 17:14-19 and Mark 9:14-28 for more details. We'll be drawing on these other two gospel accounts for our study today.

1. \*\*\***Read Luke 9:37** From the mountaintop now to the valley where the people are waiting. Mark's gospel gives a little more detail as to who was in the crowd and what they were doing. Read also **Mark 9:14-15** and describe the scene (physically and emotionally) that awaits Jesus and the three apostles:

*The apostles have just come down from the quintessential mountaintop experience with Jesus. The hum of the voice of God still buzzing in their ears, the vision of what they've seen still swirling in their minds...and no sooner do they come into view of the people but they are confronted with a dose of reality! If you've ever returned from an inspiring women's retreat or a motivational conference or even just a refreshing vacation then perhaps you can feel for the disciples as real life and all its drama crashes in unapologetically to their reverie. But, this mountaintop time was not their calling. It was not where they were meant to remain. The time away was not the end of their focus...it was a peek at what was to come – the kingdom of God.*

*Their time was to be spent now in the ministry of proclaiming the kingdom of God, and that cannot happen isolated away on a mountain. No matter how fabulous it was, they had to "be about their Father's business" just as Jesus had said. Ministry happens in the valley with the people.*

*The two prophets they had just seen - Moses and Elijah - had to learn this as well. Each of them had had powerful, defining moments on a mountain with God. Each of them had to come down from that experience and face the realities of the world – the darkness from the people as well as the darkness in their own hearts...*

2. **Read Exodus 24:15-18** Describe Moses' encounter on the mountain with God:

3. **Read Exodus 32:15-20** Describe Moses' encounter when he comes down from the mountain:

What three words could you use to describe the state of the people Moses returns to?



4. **Read 1 Kings 18:36-40** This is the victorious culmination of a showdown between the prophets of Baal and the prophet of God, Elijah. Describe Elijah's experience on the mountain:

5. **Read 1 Kings 19:1-4** Describe Elijah's experience after coming down from the mountain:

What three words could you use to describe the state of the Elijah's heart?



Both Moses and Elijah recover, reengage with God, are ultimately renewed. They return to continue to lead the people – Moses for many more years until he is hidden away by God to die below Mt. Nebo (Deuteronomy 34:1-8) and Elijah for several more years until he is taken up by God in chariots of fire (2 Kings 2:11).

Let's return now to the apostles and the scene that greets them after their mountaintop experience...

6. **Read Luke 9:38-39** Describe the man and boy they encounter:

7. **Read Luke 9:40** What had he already tried? \_\_\_\_\_  
Was it successful? \_\_\_ Why do you think it wasn't?

**Read Luke 9:1** To whom had Jesus given power and authority? \_\_\_\_\_

8. **Read Luke 9:41** What is Jesus' response? Write His words here:

*Make note. Jesus isn't done with this admonishment. We'll see it come up again later in the gospel.*

9. **Read Mark 9:22-24** What does Jesus say to the distraught father?

What does the father say to Jesus in return? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Read Luke 9:42** What does Jesus do? \_\_\_\_\_

11. **Read Matthew 17:19-21 and Mark 9:28-29**

What is puzzling the disciples?

What answer does Jesus give them? *Note the full concept as you consider what both Matthew and Mark say:*

What has Jesus modeled for the disciples before every event in His life? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the missing element that kept them from being able to heal this child? \_\_\_\_\_

What might you want to consider increasing in your daily life and today? \_\_\_\_\_

What did I leave space for you to record at the top of this lesson on page 143? \_\_\_\_\_

*Did you pray? If not, do that right now.*

12. **Read Luke 9:43a** How were they reacting to what has happened? \_\_\_\_\_

To whom was their amazement directed? \_\_\_\_\_

Who had they seen perform the miracle? \_\_\_\_\_

*It's important to note that while Jesus was the one they saw performing the miracle, their amazement was toward God. Luke is continuing to connect the glory of Jesus the Son with God the Father. As Jesus said to the man with a demon after healing him, "Return to your home and declare how much God has done for you." (Luke 8:39)*

13. **Read Luke 9:43b-45** What does Jesus (again) tell them is to come? (Mark gives the same full detail as Luke recorded back in 9:22) \_\_\_\_\_

*Jesus emphasizes that He want this reality to “sink into your ears.” Very colorful language, right? Jesus wants them to remember this conversation because He knows that while they are not able or even willing to truly grasp what He’s saying, there will come a future time when they’ll get it. They’ll see it. They’ll know and it will all come back to them.*

14. What does verse 45 say about their understanding?

Why? Why do you think they didn’t understand and why was it “concealed from them?”

*Has God ever done this before - concealed something that seems like it would be better if it were revealed? Is there a precedent in Scripture for God to conceal something that seems beneficial if it were made clear? ...so glad you asked...Read on and write what you find:*

**Deuteronomy 29:29** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 25:2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 21:1** \_\_\_\_\_

*Does God have the prerogative to keep His understanding concealed? \_\_\_\_ Like a parent looking out for the best interest of a child, God is looking out for the disciples’. He’s looking out for yours as well. That being said, do you want to have greater understanding? God may be keeping something concealed from you. There’s certainly a precedent for Him to do that. But there’s also room for you to ask! Pray and ask God to reveal to you what you want to understand. God may be ready to reveal it to you, He may not. The disciples, as we will see, are able to grasp the fullness of Christ’s prediction. But in God’s time.*

15. “They were afraid to ask...” Why do you think they were afraid?

### ...In Closing...

Have you ever known something deep down inside, but you didn’t want to reeeally know it? Not yet... maybe not ever? There’s something about speaking it aloud that makes it feel real and true, and if it’s hard news, well, it’s better left unsaid or even unthought. I’ve been there. I get it. Jesus has already pointed out why the disciples are unable to perceive and understand His saying. Recall Matthew 17:20-21: “Because of your little faith...” and in Mark 9:29 Jesus pointed out what they lacked: prayer. Faith and prayer.

Faith isn’t just the belief in what God will or could do...faith is the willingness to see the hard things, which, in the disciple’s case: Jesus’ death. Faith is also for the willingness to let go of what you have now as good as it might be - like seeing Jesus in His glory on Mt. Hermon and act in assurance of what is to come. “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Heb. 11:1)

Peter, high on the mountain, is overcome by the vision, visitors, and voice of God. He wants nothing but to remain to see more of God in that place...

The father, low in the valley, is overcome by the desperation, demonic activity and disciples who cannot deliver. He wants to see God do a healing work for his son...

There is nothing inherently wrong in either man’s position. But...something was missing. Jesus pointed it out. Maybe it’s missing also in your life? Faith and prayer. Both were lacking the true faith and the humility of prayer needed for their situation. What are you clinging to today that is keeping you from truly following Jesus, truly trusting Him, truly seeing what needs to be seen? What hard, horrible situation continues to perplex you and leave you going to Jesus? Go to Him today. Bring what you cling to that is keeping you from proclaiming the kingdom – bring your unbelief and cry to out to your Heavenly Father today. Pray in faith! God will hear! “All things are possible for the one who believes.” Ask Him to fill that gap: “Help me in my unbelief!”

# — Day Nine —

Read and take notes through Luke 9:46-62

Today is an Active Reading Day

... Open with Prayer ...

Another short reading...extra time for prayer! Go grab your Bible notebook and write some awesome notes! Use your map and mark that up too! Any locations mentioned? Make notes ☺

# — Day Ten —

Luke 9:46-50

... Open with Prayer ...

## Read Luke 9:46-48

Read also **Matthew 18:1-5** and **Mark 9:33-37** for more details.

Before we begin, please locate Capernaum in Galilee on your Bible map.

1. **Read Luke 9:46** What do you think the disciples were doing in order for their talk to turn to an argument about who was greatest? Think of what they've seen and been through. Some (Peter, James, and John) had been privy to the recent mountaintop experience. Write some thoughts here on what might have triggered this argument...
2. Have the disciples come to an understanding yet of the suffering that lay ahead for Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
*There is no evidence that they have grasped it yet. We left off in **Luke 9:45** with them still not only NOT getting it but afraid to even ask about it.*

Have you heard the saying, "Idle hands are the Devil's workshop?" It means that we're most likely to stray into wrongdoing when we're bored. I think an idle mind is the same. Unwilling or unable to wrap their minds around the truth of Christ's destiny, the disciples' minds are off on trivial matters fueled by their own pride.

3. What was Jesus' admonition in **Luke 8:17**? Write it here:
4. **Read Luke 8:18** What does Jesus warn them to do? Write the first phrase here:

Underline the first phrase.

What will happen if they don't listen? \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Read Luke 9:44** Write the first phrase here:

\_\_\_\_\_ Underline it.

6. **Read Luke 9:36** After God identified who Jesus was and exactly how He felt about Him, what did God say to do?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are you getting the point? Underline the key word.

Listen. Hear. Listen!

But the disciples haven't. Not really. This is why they are unable to grasp Jesus' destiny. This is why, in fulfillment of Jesus' admonition in **Luke 8:18**, "even what they think they have has been taken away."

But it's not a permanent condition! Recall Jesus' mission and His proof message to John the Baptist...the blind receive their sight, the deaf hear! Jesus will enable all to hear – even those with ears that function physically but are deaf spiritually – like these disagreeing disciples!

The last time the topic of who was greatest came up it is was not in response to a question or an argument, but a flat out bold statement made by Jesus. Do you remember it?

7. **Read Luke 7:28a** What does Jesus say about who was the greatest?

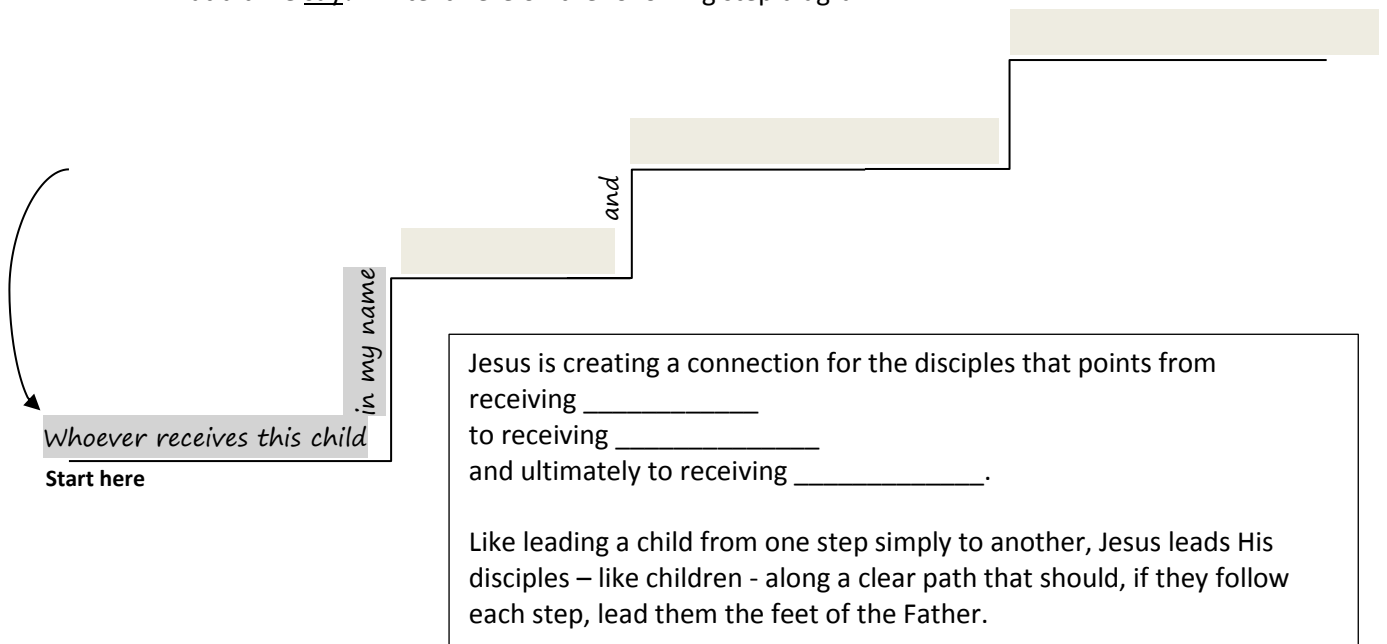
8. And yet...as great as John the Baptist was, who did Jesus say would be even greater? **Read Luke 7:28b**

**Read Luke 9:47-48**

9. What did Jesus understand/think? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What did He do? \_\_\_\_\_

11. \*\*\*What did He say? Write it here on the following step diagram:



12. **Read Luke 3:16** John the Baptist, who we already know Jesus has called the greatest prophet, said what of himself in regards to his greatness?

Exactly! John the Baptist, the greatest, acknowledged that he was the least. The disciples had heard the word “cross” when Jesus had said, “...take up your cross” but they must have thought *crown*. *Why else would they be arguing?* I can’t help think that if Jesus were here today, had handpicked twelve special disciples, that they’d already have exclusive “The Twelve” logo t-shirts designed to wear as they traveled across the land. In this situation, their personal pride is blinding them. Up next: group pride...

**Read Luke 9:49-50**

13. “John answered...” Answered what? What do you think John was replying to or commenting on?

14. Who do you think he is including in “we?”

The disciples are continuing on with the theme of the day: Pride.

Pride first in self and self-importance as they argued about their status within the twelve.

And now pride in their perceived special status in the community: “The Twelve” – their cozy club.

15. What did John say this person was doing?

*Interesting.*

16. **Read Luke 9:40** What did the father say the disciples were unable to do?

*Interesting.*

Seriously. I’m actually finding this humorous. “We couldn’t do it...so that guy shouldn’t be doing it either!”

I doubt he actually added “neener-neener” or a foot-stomp...but I wouldn’t be surprised. What part of “take up your cross and follow me” was John missing here? All of it. Missing the point entirely. Do you think the face-palm was a thing in 30AD? Who knows, maybe Jesus invented it after all this time with these disciples.

If following Jesus could be organized in stages like the stages of our human life cycle, then I’d say John was in the second-grade stage. Never heard of that? Well, if you were ever a school teacher you’d know. Second graders, as cute as they can be (and they really can be!), are just realizing that there are other humans in the world, and they don’t all do things the same way. As a result, this stage is filled with tattletales and wee little lawyers crying, “That’s not fair!” at every turn. (Don’t believe me? Spend a day in a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom and then buy me a coffee and thank me for my years as a school teacher...but I digress.)

Like young children, the disciples – even the “Beloved Disciple” as Jesus calls John – are the wrong kind of “childlike” in their faith. They are still in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade stage: immature, self-motivated, prideful, argumentative, and divisive. They need further guidance and experiences, but most importantly, they need to grasp the true cost of following Jesus – die to self and be ready to die period.

17. \*\*\*In his complaint, John, speaking for the rest of the disciples, says three things:

- We saw someone casting out demons in \_\_\_\_\_
- we tried to \_\_\_\_\_
- because he \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the word “us” above.

\*\*\*Read **Luke 9:49** again, and think about this: At the core of every complaint or explanation that John gives is a direct violation of a clear teaching Jesus had already given! Go back to question #17 and write any correlation you see between what John says and what Jesus has already taught. I've left some space to the right of the a/b/c points on the previous page for you to go back and jot any notes. Do some thinking and reviewing of the Scripture we've read and see if you can identify the teachings that John is violating.

18. Why do you think John mentions that this person does the work in Jesus' name?

**Hint:** What had Jesus taught in **Luke 6:46**? (**Matthew 7:21-22** gives even more details.)

19. What was wrong with the disciples trying to stop this person?

**Hint:** What had Jesus taught in **Luke 6:41-42**?

20. If this person did not "follow with us" how is he able to successfully cast out a demon?

**Hint:** What had Jesus taught in **Luke 6:43-45**

21. **Read Luke 9:50** What does Jesus tell them **not** to do? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? Write Jesus' words here:

Once again, we see Jesus about His Father's business and redirecting His followers to do the same and to allow others to do it as well.

...In Closing...

Pride is very destructive. It ruins tears down unity by breaking up relationships. True relationships are built on sacrifice and service. Pride is the root of that "log eye" condition – it's a spirit of judgement and criticism and so it divides. In Philippians 2:3-4 Paul writes: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Be like Christ, be concerned about others. Deny yourself. Take up your cross – not your crown! – and follow – truly follow Jesus!

Why not close your time to day in prayer? Ask God to do whatever He needs to do in your life to keep you from pride. Ask God to make you aware of any need you have to exalt yourself. Pray that you would walk humbly before God so that you would truly honor Jesus as His follower.



# — Day Eleven —

Luke 9:51-56

... Open with Prayer ...

**Read Luke 9:51-56** Have your Active Reading notes and a map handy.

I used to play this fun game with my writing students. It was their absolute favorite, and they'd request it all the time. I would ask an outlandish question and then instead of answering the question, everyone would create a backstory that could have lead up to that question. It was so fun, and the kids and I had a ball writing then reading one another's clever tales! Shall we play?

I'll pose a question and you think of what crazy scenario could have possibly come before to set it up...

"Why is that huuuuuge donut rolling through town and demolishing everything in its path?"

Or...

"Mom, how much does it cost to have a full-face tattoo removed?"

Or...

"Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"

Which one of the above improbable questions would you be able to set up with the actual and factual scenario? Donut? Tattoo? or Fire?

I'm having fun with you, but in all seriousness, what kind of question is this from the disciples in our account in Luke today? The Twelve. Oh, boy. They are too much! Or are they? Maybe this is perfectly reasonable!

Let's dig into today's passage and see again the cost of discipleship and the radical life of humility, mercy and justice He has modeled for us.

1. Where has Jesus been traveling? Write the locations here:
  - The Transfiguration \_\_\_\_\_
  - Who is the Greatest? \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 9:33)In which general direction is Jesus moving? \_\_\_\_\_  
...through which region? \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Read Luke 9:51** Recall that this is an historical account, so Luke and his readers already know what is going to happen. What event is Luke referring to when he says the "days drew near for Him..."? \_\_\_\_\_ (Hint: Luke 24:51) Mark this in your Bible.
3. Where is Jesus heading? \_\_\_\_\_ He's not just heading there physically. What does the verse say? Write the phrase here:  
|
4. \*\*\*That figure of speech - "set His face" – has echoes of messianic wording from Isaiah. **Read Isaiah 50:6-7** what messianic (pointing to Jesus as the Savior) wording do you read here? (Think ahead to Jesus' suffering before the cross.):  
|

Highlight **Luke 9:51** and note: "TURNING POINT" in your Bible. This is a big one. Jesus will have two short visits to Jerusalem to observe holy days before His final arrival in Jerusalem, but Luke's gospel builds forward from this point to Jerusalem. Make note of it as we continue our studies.

5. **Read Luke 9:52** and compare this with Jesus' instructions to the twelve in **Matthew 10:5**  
They are now allowed to go where? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Read **Luke 9:53** did the people of Samaria receive Him? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?

7. Read **2 Kings 17:29-42** The Jews and the Samaritans have had a notoriously contentious relationship. Does the phrase "Hatfields and McCoys" ring a bell? What did the Samaritans do to defile their relationship with God's people? List three or four actions here:

For a brief and helpful article on this topic visit <https://bible.org/illustration/hatred-between-jews-and-samaritans>

8. **Read Luke 9:54** Here we are...back at that big question! Do you have a better understanding now of why James and John want to let it rain fire on these people? Share your thoughts here:

Read also **1 Kings 18:37-39** and **2 Kings 1:9-16** for background. Some manuscripts add to James' and John's request: "even as Elijah did."

9. \*\*\*What does it show of James and John growth as disciples that they would even suggest that they could call down fire? Think of one positive (Hooray! You guys are starting to get this!) and one negative (Man, you guys are missing the big picture still.)



10. **Read Matthew 10:14-15** When Jesus sends out the twelve, what warning did He have for those who would not receive them? (Hint: He compares their potential fate to that of the epic doomed cities.)

*Maybe this is why the Sons of Thunder (James' and John's nicknames) thought they could call down fire. Maybe this is why Jesus had already given them that nickname (Mark 3:17)! Hadn't Jesus said that any place they weren't received would be doomed like Sodom and Gomorrah? (My grandpa was the first person I ever heard use the saying, "Close, but no cigar." I think he'd say that right here.) Jesus DIDN'T say that any just place would get the Sodom and Gomorrah treatment...He had specifically forbidden them to even go to Samaria! This condemnation was for what lands? Which people then? I'll give you a hint: It starts with "J" and ends with "ews." The Jews. (Good job.)*

*Remember that the gospel was for the "Jew first then the Gentile." (Samaritans were Gentiles.) Jesus was still bringing His message to the Jews. They will suffer worse than Sodom and Gomorrah if they reject it. But that time is not yet come.*

11. In addition, what is Jesus' mission right now? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Hint: Luke 4:43)

12. **Read Luke 9:54-55** Short and sweet. Jesus redirects the disciples yet again...

What does Jesus do? \_\_\_\_\_

What do “they” all do? \_\_\_\_\_

### ...In Closing...

John is rebuked by Jesus twice in a short period of time: first for his pride in their 12-person discipleship club – not wanting others to use Jesus’ name to get kingdom work done; second for his lack of mercy – wanting to see the inhospitable Samaritans get destroyed. Surely John won’t cut it as a disciple. Surely he’ll be the one who gives up, takes it all back and returns home to the fishing nets. Not at all. We know that Judas will be the one to throw it all away. He will betray Jesus. But where is Judas in all these interactions? Not a peep so far. The rash Peter has been rebuked. Now the bold brothers, James and John, have been rebuked. They all still have a lot to learn, but don’t every think that because someone has to be rebuked, they shouldn’t be in service. Don’t ever discount your own potential in the kingdom of God either. You may get it wrong – really wrong. You might even get it wrong publicly – don’t dismay. This same John goes on to become one of the greatest disciples of all. He pens the Gospel of John; 1, 2, and 3 John, plus the final book of the Bible: Revelation. After Jesus’ death and resurrection, John goes back through Samaria! He and Peter bring them the gospel! You can read about that in Acts 8:25. And, while John is harsh and unloving here as a fresh disciple, he certainly learns and grows. The theme of his later writings is love! “Beloved, let us love one another,” he writes, “For love is of God and everyone that loves is born of God and knows God.” (1 John 4:7-8). How fitting. There’s always hope. There was hope for thundering, judgmental, merciless John...there’s hope for all of us. We must continue to submit and surrender like John did. We must count the cost of true discipleship. When we do, we will fulfill the heart of the gospel and bring glory to the kingdom of God.

# — Day Twelve —

Luke 9:57-62

... Open with Prayer ...

**Read Luke 9:57-62 and Matthew 8:18-22** for more details

Have you ever said yes to being involved in something (an event, a committee, a project, etc.) only to find out later that there was way more involved than you were led to believe? Don't you hate that? There's no risk of that happening to anyone asking about involvement in what Jesus was doing. But that might be the problem right there. Most people are interested in being "involved" with something that seems to be good. Maybe there's a certain prestige to the group, maybe just to see and be seen, maybe to be in the know. But Jesus, as we'll see today in our final day of study for this session, will never under-sell the commitment and cost involved in following Him. Actually, He may even dramatically emphasize the cost just to test a person's resolve and to check their motives.

1. **Read Luke 9:57a** Jesus and the twelve are continuing toward \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 9:51) having been diverted from going through \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 9:52) they are on a road perhaps heading east toward the Jordan River or somewhere east already of the river and heading on south. Find the locations on your map to get an idea of where this account may have taken place.
2. What does the dictionary say it means to "follow" someone?
3. **Read Luke 9:23** What did Jesus say it meant to follow Him?

While reading this passage, I couldn't help but think of this little poem my great-aunt Constance used to recite:

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done

While you read this next five verses, you'll meet three people named: "Someone", "Another", and "Yet Another" but as you read, please consider how you might see yourself as one or more of these anonymous would-be followers. Your Bible translation might read "a man", "another man", or "still another", but for this study I'll be using the ESV.

4. **Read Luke 9:57b-58** What does “Someone” say to Jesus?

What does Jesus say?

\*\*\*What does this say to you about the cost of following Jesus?

5. **Read Luke 9:59-60** Jesus initiates this conversation with “Another” by asking stating:

How does Another ~~reply~~ weasel out of it? *(Note the very first word by drawing a box around it in your Bible.)*

What does Jesus say?

\*\*\*What does this say to you about the cost of following Jesus?

6. **Read Luke 9:61-62** What does “Yet Another” say? (the first part)

What does Yet Another have to do first? *(Note the first word of this excuse. Draw a box around the word.)*

What does Jesus say?

\*\*\*What does this say to you about the cost of following Jesus?

### ...In Closing...

Did you see yourself in any of these conversations? Honestly, I saw myself in every one of them!

I am “Someone.” I want a place to live. The thought of not having a place for my head to rest is not pleasant to me.

I am “Another.” I want to be there to care for my aging family members. Not being there for them is not a pleasant idea to me.

I am “Yet Another.” I want to stay connected to my family and friends. I want them to know what I’m up to. Missing out on time with them isn’t a pleasant idea to me.

Thankfully, that’s what Jesus has called us to: a pleasant life. Phew! Oh, wait... Actually, each one of these conversations brought me back to “deny yourself, take up your cross...follow Me.” Two reminders came to my heart as I was studying through these verses: one from the apostle Peter who would have been on that road listening to all this and another from a simple chorus I learned as a child.

In 1 Peter 2:21-23, after describing the kind of holy life we should be living, Peter writes: “For to this [enduring sorrows] you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might *follow in His steps*.” That is my calling. If I am to truly follow Him, like Peter I must live a holy life and endure sorrows if need be.

The sweet chorus I learned is “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”. When I looked it up to see if there was an author I found that while it is anonymous, there is a powerful story as to its origin. It’s a simple song that I look forward to singing with you when we meet again for our time of study and worship.

*I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS*

*I have decided to follow Jesus (3x)  
No turning back, no turning back*

*Though none go with me, still I will follow (3x)  
No turning back, no turning back*

*The world behind me, the cross before me (3x)  
No turning back, no turning back.*

To hear this on YouTube go to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypi4jz2\\_sHk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypi4jz2_sHk)

#### **The Story Behind the Song**

About 150 years ago, there was a great revival in Wales, England. As a result of this, many missionaries came from England and Germany to North-East India to spread the Gospel. At the time, north-east India was not divided into many states as it is today. The region was known as Assam and comprised hundreds of tribes. The tribal communities were quite primitive and aggressive by nature. The tribals were also called head-hunters because of a social custom which required the male members of the community to collect as many heads as possible. A man’s strength and ability to protect his wife was assessed by the number of heads he had collected. Therefore, a youth of marriageable age would try and collect as many heads as possible and hang them on the walls of his house. The more heads a man had, the more eligible he was considered. Into this hostile and aggressive community, came a group of Welsh missionaries spreading the message of love, peace and hope of Jesus Christ. Naturally, they were not welcomed. One Welsh missionary succeeded in converting a man, his wife, and two children. This man’s faith proved contagious and many villagers began to accept Christianity. Angry, the village chief summoned all the villagers. He then called the family who had first converted to renounce their faith in public or face execution. Moved by the Holy Spirit, the man instantly composed a song which became famous down the years. He sang:

"I have decided to follow Jesus. (3 times)No turning back, no turning back."

Enraged at the refusal of the man, the chief ordered his archers to arrow down the two children. As both boys lay twitching on the floor, the chief asked, “Will you deny your faith? You have lost both your children. You will lose your wife too.”

But the man sang these words in reply:

"Though no one joins me, still I will follow. (3 times) No turning back, no turning back."

The chief was beside himself with fury and ordered his wife to be arrowed down. In a moment she joined her two children in death. Now he asked for the last time, "I will give you one more opportunity to deny your faith and live."

In the face of death the man sang the final memorable lines:

"The cross before me, the world behind me. (3 times) No turning back, no turning back."

He was shot dead like the rest of his family. But with their deaths, a miracle took place. The chief who had ordered the killings was moved by the faith of the man. He wondered, "Why should this man, his wife and two children die for a Man who lived in a far-away land on another continent some 2,000 years ago? There must be some supernatural power behind the family, and I too want that supernatural power."

In a spontaneous confession of faith, he declared, "I too belong to Jesus Christ!" When the crowd heard this from the mouth of their chief, the whole village accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior.

-Dr. P.P. Job and Indian preacher in His book "Why God Why"

You are loved  
**AND**  
prayed for.