

Luke 9 pt 7 vs. 51-62

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, [**Ascension**] that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, 52 and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. 53 But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. 54 And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"

55 But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. ⁵⁶ For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save *them*." And they went to another village.

57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go."

58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head."

59 Then He said to another, "Follow Me."

But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

61 And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house."

62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

I. Mercy displayed

II. Discipleship explained

I. Mercy displayed

1. We learn from scripture that everything God does, He does for our benefit

- a. Every story has a lesson of value
 - b. Every miracle gives us a glimpse into the heart of God
2. This portion begins a new section of the Gospel
 - a. So far, Luke has been teaching us about the arrival of Jesus & a revelation of who He is
 - b. From this point forward, Jesus will begin heading down to Jerusalem over the next few months to be glorified
3. When the time had come for Him to be received up [**ascension**]
 - a. Luke speaks of His ascension to heaven – highlighting His Glory
 - b. Sure, the cross will be painful; beyond our ability to comprehend
 - c. Certainly, the disciples will have dark days ahead
 - d. But the end result is that Jesus will ascend into heaven after completing His mission; **our salvation**
 - e. Luke is reminding us that there is a reason for the pain; it ends in glory
4. The disciples have witnessed glimpses of that glory
5. But before the ultimate glory, there must be a cross
 - a. There has to be suffering.
6. Now that they are beginning to know who He is, & His power, now they have to understand His death.
7. So Jesus will be teaching them and us important lessons
8. We'll see this training from chapter 9:51 to chapter 19:27 as Jesus moves toward Jerusalem.
9. Jesus was determined to go to Jerusalem (Set His Face)

- a. He knew His mission and would follow it perfectly
 - b. Nothing will take Him off course
 - c. **This is true courage**; knowing what will happen and facing it
 - d. This brings me much comfort
 - i. Nothing stands in His way
 - ii. He is stronger than death, hell and the grave
 - iii. Nothing is too difficult for God
10. Setting His Face toward Jerusalem doesn't mean that He was physically present in Samaria and His mind and heart are in Jerusalem
- a. Jesus' heart and mind are always present
 - b. He was simply making it clear that His destination will be in Jerusalem, the place where He'll be tried, crucified and glorified
11. The Samaritans wanted nothing to do with Jerusalem or the Jews
- a. They rejected the Lord of glory because of their hatred for the Jews – which was mutual
 - b. This hatred caused them to miss a meeting with Jesus
 - c. Their hatred blinded them to the blessing in front of them
 - d. I wonder how often I've missed God because of an issue I've had with others.
12. James and John are insulted and want revenge
- a. They want to call down fire from heaven
 - b. And they used the bible to make their point

- c. 2 Kings 1, Elijah called down fire from heaven (**Ahaziah**)
 - d. This was not the time for judgment, it was a time for mercy
 - e. Anytime I want to cause judgment to fall on others, I need to stop and check my own heart first
 - f. This was not a holy or righteous thing.
 - g. This is pride parading itself in godliness
 - h. Their pride was hurt because they were rejected
 - i. They wanted to prove how on fire they are by bringing fire down on people
13. Jesus is not angry with the Samaritans
- a. He extends mercy & goes to another village – to any that will receive Him
 - b. **Because the heart of his ministry is mercy**
14. **God's heart is a heart of mercy**
15. Mercy is not receiving what you deserve
16. **Lam 3:22** The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
17. Jesus is the expression of God
- a. The attributes of God are best seen in the person of Christ
18. **Isaiah 42:3** A bruised reed He will not break, and a faintly burning wick He will not quench (Matthew 12:20)
- a. His heart is not to break, but to save

19. As Jesus taught them about humility with the little boy, now He teaches them a lesson on mercy
20. Mercy has been there from the beginning
 - a. When Adam sinned, God showed mercy and covered him
 - b. When Abraham lied, God showed him mercy
 - c. **2 Cor 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
 - d. **Hos_2:19** And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy
 - e. **2 Sa_24:14** Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for his **mercy** is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man."
 - f. **Psalm 51:1** Have **mercy** on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant **mercy** blot out my transgressions.
21. Mercy is condescending love reaching out to meet the need of someone without thought of their merit or demerit (**MacArthur**)
22. **Mercy is at the heart of Jesus' mission**
 - a. So that we don't get what we deserve
 - b. It is God reaching us with love although we don't deserve it
 - c. Although we may have or still may be rejecting Him
23. **Ephesians 2:4** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
24. As a disciple, I'm to follow in that same pattern of showing mercy
25. Not a spirit like James and John, but one of Mercy like Jesus

- a. **Proverbs 3:3:** Let not mercy and truth forsake you. Bind them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart.
 - b. **Luke 6:36** Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.
 - c. **Matthew 5:7** Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy
 - d. **Colossians 3:12** Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;
26. **Someone may say, ya but you don't know that my mercy meter is very low; kind of like John & James, ready for fire to fall**
27. Somehow, this same John was transformed into the Apostle of Love.
- a. God did a work in him to change him from the angry, prideful & selfish man, into a loving, compassionate lover of God and man
 - b. He was transformed on the journey
 - c. They couldn't change themselves, but God did it as they walked with the Lord
 - d. That is good news for those of us still struggling as John and James were struggling in Luke 9
28. Later in the book of Acts 8, many in Samaria gave their hearts to the Lord
- a. God's patience and mercy led them to repentance in due time
 - b. **This is the church's mission, to extend mercy**
 - c. I'm glad God has mercy on us
29. **Mercy & Truth go hand in hand**

30. **Ps 85:10** Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
31. While mercy does not give us what we deserve, understanding God's mercy & receiving His mercy will only bring us to one place; Wanting more of this God of mercy
32. **Wanting more of Him = Discipleship (service)**
 - a. Saying: I want to walk with you and in your footsteps
 - b. Your way is the way of life

II. Discipleship explained

1. On the road, 3 encounters happen as some began to realize that Jesus is not simply a good moral teacher or a get out of jail card in the game of life or even my way out of hell;
 - a. He is life itself.
 - b. **I am the Way, the truth and the life**
2. In the first encounter, a Scribe offers to follow wherever Jesus goes (v. 57).
3. In the 2nd, Jesus makes the call (v. 59).
4. In the 3rd, the person has a priority that stands before his desire to follow Jesus (v. 61).
5. Luke wants us to begin to recognize some of some of those things that rival and hinder our commitment to Christ.
6. Jesus is identifying those things that we love more than Christ, which undermine true discipleship
 - a. 1st person is a scribe who tells Jesus "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go"
 - i. That sounds really noble and good.

- ii. Jesus replies: "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay His head"
 - iii. Lord, this is a scribe – well connected to the higher class, kind of important
 - b. Jesus looks past his statement and looks deep into his heart and says: following Me means being willing to give up material comforts and conveniences
 - c. This road is filled with challenges and rejection
 - d. Discipleship requires resolve because it means getting out of your comfort zone & facing rejection
 - e. It requires you taking up your cross and following Him daily
- 7. This is true love, to speak the truth up front
 - a. Jesus recognized that his love for comfort and acceptance was greater than his love for God
 - b. We don't know what happened to this man because this is really written for us
- 8. **The 2nd man** is approached by Jesus "Follow Me"
 - a. Let me bury my father...
 - b. **Let the dead bury the dead**
 - c. Let those who don't understand how the kingdom works; who are not a part of the kingdom of God, these are dead spiritually; let them bury the dead
 - d. This man either had a job by taking care of his family or had an inheritance he's waiting for
 - e. Jesus see's that an occupation or possessions can hinder us from pursuing God with all of our hearts

9. **The 3rd person** said, lord, I'll follow you, let me first go say goodbye to my family
 - a. No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God
 - b. As if to say, "I want you to look straight ahead and stay in your lane"
 - c. Again, Jesus saw that family, friends and relationships have a higher place in this person's life
 - d. Even the "**best excuse**" possible should not get in the way of discipleship and following God
10. **We have 3 main hindrances to discipleship / service**
 - a. Material comforts / Convenience
 - b. Jobs or occupations / possessions
 - c. Family and friends / relationships
11. Christ must have the preeminence. All others must be secondary
12. **Again, this is for our good**
13. The fact that we put Jesus first is really for our protection, because people, comforts, possessions, relationships will change, but He never changes
 - a. On my journey with God, if and when my comfort are no longer comfortable, I'll begin to question God and it becomes easy to fall away
 - b. If possessions are more important, than when my bank account drops, I'll question God and easily walk away

- c. If my family or friend relationships take a higher place than God, then my loyalty to them will take a higher place than my loyalty to God
- 14. When Christ has the preeminence, then everything is placed in perspective
 - a. It's not that He doesn't want me to ever be comfortable or have a good job or enjoy family and friends...
 - b. **Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you** (Matt 6:33)
 - c. But if other things are my priority, then He truly is not Lord of my life
- 15. Following after the Lord is not just a good idea
- 16. He becomes as necessary as a parachute on a plane that's going down
 - a. To a person who is on a flight like that,
 - i. They're not concerned about the comfort of the flight
 - ii. They're not concerned about the convenience of the flight
 - iii. They're certainly not concerned about anyone making fun of them
- 17. We hold on to Jesus for dear life and say, 'no matter the hardships or inconveniences, I'm staying the course'