

# The Book of Luke

## Lesson 17

In feeding the five thousand Jesus shows great compassion for the people, who were like sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6:34). Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus gave thanks, broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to give to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. All of them ate until they were satisfied (Luke 9:16-17).

The physical reality of feeding this hungry crowd was a graphic demonstration of the greater spiritual truth that Jesus is Himself the very Bread of Life and that “man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord” (Deuteronomy 8:3). Jesus would further emphasize this truth on another occasion by saying “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never thirst” (John 6:35).

One day Jesus asked His disciples who the people said He was. The disciples replied that some people thought He was John the Baptist, others thought He was Elijah, and still others said He was one of the prophets of long ago who had come back to life. When Jesus asked the disciples who they thought He was, Peter answered, “The Christ of God” (Luke 9:18b-20). To this Jesus replied, “Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven” (Matthew 16:17).

Jesus is making the point here that it is only the Spirit of God, working in our hearts and minds to remove blindness, that allows us to gain insight and understanding into who Jesus is. As the apostle Paul would later write to the Corinthian Christians, “We [believers] have not received the spirit of the

world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us” (1 Corinthians 2:12).

The transfiguration provides greater revelation about who Jesus is as God the Father speaks out of the cloud to Peter, James and John: “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” As they were coming down the mountain Jesus, knowing what lay ahead for him to accomplish on the cross in Jerusalem, instructs the disciples not to tell anyone what they have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead (Matthew 17:9).

Jesus would go on to finish His work and complete His purpose here on earth by sacrificing Himself for the sins of His people. By exchanging His righteousness for the sin of His people, He would remove their guilt and set His people free. As Scripture says, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free” (Galatians 5:1).

As you begin this week’s lesson, please take a moment in prayer to thank Him for all that He has done in setting us free.

### **The Healing of a Boy with an Evil Spirit**

Luke 9:37-50 details several incidents that show either a lack of faith, slowness to learn, pride or intolerance. After studying each incident you will be asked which of these unfortunate traits applies to that particular situation.

1. Read Luke 9:37-45, Matthew 17:14-23 and Mark 9:14-32.
  - A. A father in the crowd calls out to Jesus to help his only son. Briefly describe the symptoms and condition of the boy.

- B. Before appealing to Jesus for relief, whom had the father asked for help and healing? What had been the result?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. What is Jesus' initial comment regarding this situation? What is the point Jesus is making?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- D. What happens to the boy as he is being brought to Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- E. What does Jesus ask the father (Mark 9:21)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- F. What is the father's response?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- G. What is of interest to you about Jesus' reply to the father in Mark 9:23?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- H. How does the father's reply in Mark 9:24 instruct, encourage and challenge you?

- I. What action does Jesus take to heal the boy? What is the result?
- J. After the boy has been healed and returned to his father, what questions do the disciples ask Jesus in private? (See the accounts recorded in Matthew and Mark.) How does Jesus reply? How might we apply Jesus' response to ourselves?

- K. For the father and/or the disciples, indicate how this incident reveals:

Lack of faith or  
Slowness to learn or  
Pride or  
Intolerance or All  
the above or None  
of the above

What can we learn from this incident to improve our relationship with the Lord?

L. In Luke 9:44, Jesus instructs His disciples to listen carefully to what He is about to tell them.

(1) What does He say?

(2) Why does He say it?

(3) What is the reaction/response of the disciples?

### **Who Will Be the Greatest?**

2. Read Luke 9:46-50, Matthew 18:1-5 and Mark 9:33-37.

A. What are the disciples discussing among themselves?

B. How does Jesus intervene in their discussion?

(1) How does He answer their concern?

(2) What powerful illustration does He use to make His point?

(3) Matthew 20:25-28 and Mark 9:35 express the fundamental principle required of followers desiring to attain true greatness in the kingdom of God. What is it?

(4) According to 1 John 3:11, 16 and 18, what inner attitude and outward action are we to have in fulfilling this principle? Why?

C. For the disciples, indicate how this incident reveals:

- Lack of faith or
- Slowness to learn or
- Pride or
- Intolerance or
- All the above or
- None of the above

What can we learn from this incident to improve our relationship with the Lord?

## Competition and Opposition

3. Read Luke 9:49-56 and Mark 9:38-41.
  - A. What has upset John and the other disciples?
  
  - B. What do they initially try to do about it?
  
  - C. What complaint do they voice to Jesus?
  
  - D. How does Jesus rebuke and instruct the disciples?
  
  - E. From Luke 9:51-56:
    - (1) Why do the Samaritans refuse to welcome Jesus and His entourage?
  
    - (2) What do James and John propose to Jesus that should be done about Samaritan opposition?
  
    - (3) What is Jesus' response?

F. For the disciples, indicate how this incident reveals:

Lack of faith or  
Slowness to learn or  
Pride or  
Intolerance or All  
the above or None  
of the above

What can we learn from these incidents to improve our relationship with the Lord?

### **Counting the Cost of Following Jesus**

4 Read Luke 9:57-62 and Matthew 8:18-22.

A. As Jesus presses on toward Jerusalem and the cross, three considerations, factors or costs are mentioned for potential disciples to weigh in deciding whether to follow Him. What are they?

