

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 19

After Jesus descends from the Mount of Transfiguration and resolutely sets out for Jerusalem and the cross, four incidents serve as tests for the disciples, revealing their lack of faith, slowness to learn, intolerance and pride.

In the first incident, Jesus points out that their failure to heal the demon-possessed boy demonstrates a lack of faith. He says, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17: 20-21).

In the second incident, while everyone was marveling that Jesus had rebuked the evil spirit, had healed the boy, and had given him back to his father, Jesus forewarns his disciples of his betrayal. Jesus said, "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men." The disciples did not grasp this and were afraid to ask Jesus about it (Luke 9: 43-45), thus revealing their slowness to understand.

Their dullness, as well as their intolerance and pride, is evident in the third incident, occurring as they walked along arguing which of them would be the greatest in the kingdom of God. Jesus tells them that "...he who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven must become the least and servant of all."

The fourth incident reveals their intolerance of others in vainly attempting to prevent a man driving out demons in Jesus' name and in asking Jesus if they should call fire down from heaven to destroy Samaritans who had

rejected Jesus on His way to Jerusalem. Jesus rebuked them for this (Luke 9:49, 54).

These four incidents remind us of our need to ask God daily for grace to trust Jesus more so that through the Holy Spirit He might give us greater insight and understanding into God's ways. Ask Him for grace to become free of pride, to become more tolerant in personal relationships and to love and serve others in ways that are a blessing for them and pleasing to God.

The Lord of the Harvest

1. Read Luke 10:1-12.

A. Is this the same incident recorded in Luke 9:1-6? Why or why not?

B. From verses 1-3:

(1) How many "others" were appointed by Jesus?

(2) The Revised Standard Version and the New International Version record different numbers of those appointed. From a Bible footnote or other source, why the difference? What might these numbers symbolize?

(3) Where were they being sent (verse 1)?

- (4) Explain verse two in your own words.

- (5) What command and caution does Jesus give those being sent?

- (6) How are we to apply the first three verses to our own lives?

C. From 10:4-12:

- (1) How were the appointed ones to be equipped?

- (2) The culture and custom of the day required an elaborate amount of time and discourse in greeting others. Why do you think Jesus tells them not to greet anyone on the road?

- (3) What are they to say when they enter a house?

(4) What are they to do if a man of peace is there? What are they not to do? Why?

D. According to 10:8-9, what response are they to give when a town welcomes them?

E. From 10:10-12:

(1) What response are they to give when a town does not welcome them?

(2) What do you think Jesus means when He says that the “kingdom of God is near” (10:11)?

2. Read Luke 10:13-24, Matthew 11:20-27 and 13:16, 17.

A. Why does Jesus speak so harshly against Korazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum? What had been performed there?

- B. If the miracles performed in these cities had been performed in the evil cities of Tyre and Sidon, what would have been the response according to Jesus?

- C. When people listen to the followers of Jesus, who are they really listening to (10:16)?

- D. When people reject the followers of Jesus, who are they really rejecting?

- E. From 10:17-20:
 - (1) Why do the 72 return with joy?

 - (2) What do you think Jesus means in 10:18 when He replies, “I saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven”?

- (3) In verse 19, Jesus tells His disciples that He has given them authority to overcome all the power of the enemy and that nothing will harm them. However, in verse 20, He tells them not to rejoice over the fact that the spirits submit to them but that their names are written in heaven. What deeper truth is Jesus revealing to them and to us from these verses, John 15:16 and Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-4 and 21:22-27

- F. From verses 10:21-24, what other truths does Jesus reveal to His disciples?

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

3. Read Luke 10:25-37.

- A. Describe what unfolds here in your own words.

B. What impressed you in this passage?

C. As you meditate on these verses, what do you think are the most important lessons Jesus wants us to remember and apply?

Martha and Mary

4. Read Luke 10:38-42.

A. On the way to Jerusalem, to whose home do Jesus and the disciples go?

B. From verse 39, who is Mary?

- C. How would you compare and contrast the sisters in actions and attitude of heart?

- D. What is Martha's complaint to Jesus?

- E. What is Martha worried and upset about according to Jesus?

- F. On the other hand, for what does Jesus commend Mary? Why?

- G. Mary actually sat at the Lord's feet listening to what He said. Figuratively speaking, how do we sit at the Lord's feet listening to what He says?

- H. From verse 42, what is the only thing needed? What has Mary chosen that is better? As a result of her choice, what does Jesus promise Mary, and by way of application, to us?
- I. If you have made the same choice as Mary, how has the “it shall not be taken away from her” (you) worked out in your life? Please explain.