CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Luke Chapter 9 —

Mission, Glory, and the Cost of Discipleship

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Luke Chapter 9 is a turning point in the Gospel of Luke.

It begins with Jesus sending out the twelve with His power and authority.

Herod wonders who Jesus is.

Jesus feeds five thousand people with five loaves and two fish.

Then comes the great question: “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answers, “You are the Christ of God.”

From that moment, Jesus begins to speak openly about His coming suffering and death.

On a mountain, His glory shines, and the Father says, “This is My beloved Son; listen to Him.”

Then Jesus sets His face toward Jerusalem, where the cross is waiting.

Along the way, He teaches what it costs to follow Him.

The chapter moves through twelve movements:

- The Mission of the Twelve (verses 1–6).
- Herod's Perplexity (verses 7–9).
- Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (verses 10–17).
- Peter's Confession of Christ (verses 18–21).
- Jesus Predicts His Death (verses 22–27).
- The Transfiguration (verses 28–36).
- Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy (verses 37–43).
- A Second Prediction of His Death (verses 43–45).
- Who Is the Greatest? (verses 46–48).
- Others Driving Out Demons (verses 49–50).
- The Samaritan Village Rejects Jesus (verses 51–56).
- The Cost of Following Jesus (verses 57–62).

The central truth of Luke 9 is:

Jesus is the Christ of God, whose path to glory runs through the cross, and He calls His followers to deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Him with full commitment.

I. POWER AND AUTHORITY

Luke 9:1 — The Twelve Called Together

“Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to heal diseases.”

“Jesus called the twelve together.”

They had watched Him.

Now they would serve.

“Gave them power and authority.”

Power: the ability.

Authority: the right.

“Over all demons and to heal diseases.”

Jesus shared His own ministry with them.

Cross References

Matthew 10:1

> Jesus called His twelve followers together and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every kind of sickness.

Mark 6:7

> He called the twelve to Him and began sending them out two by two, giving them authority over evil spirits.

Luke 10:19

> I have given you authority to walk on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus equips those He sends.

Key Truth

The power to serve comes from Jesus, not from us.

II. SENT TO PROCLAIM AND HEAL

Luke 9:2 — The Kingdom of God

“He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”

“He sent them out.”

The word “apostle” means “sent one.”

“To proclaim the kingdom of God.”

The message came first.

“And to heal the sick.”

The healings showed the kingdom was real.

Word and deed together.

Cross References

Matthew 10:7

> As you go, tell people, “The kingdom of heaven is near.”

Mark 6:12

> They went out and preached that people should turn away from their sins.

Matthew 10:8

> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, and drive out demons. You received freely, so give freely.

Spiritual Principle

God's people proclaim the kingdom in word and deed.

Key Truth

The message and the mercy go together.

III. TAKE NOTHING

Luke 9:3 — Traveling Light

“He instructed them, “Take nothing for your journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, and no extra shirt.”

“Take nothing for your journey.”

No supplies.

No backup plan.

“No bread, no money, and no extra shirt.”

They would depend completely on God.

God would provide through the people they served.

This was training in trust for a specific mission.

Cross References

Matthew 10:9

> Do not take any gold, silver, or copper coins in your belts.

Mark 6:8

> He told them to take nothing for the journey except a walking stick: no bread, no bag, no money.

Matthew 10:10

> Do not take a bag, an extra shirt, sandals, or a walking stick. A worker deserves to be fed.

Spiritual Principle

Discipleship requires trust in God's provision.

Key Truth

Traveling light teaches us to lean on God.

IV. STAY IN ONE HOUSE

Luke 9:4 — Until You Leave

“Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town.”

Do not shop around for better places to stay.

Accept the hospitality you are given.

Be content.

Focus on the mission, not comfort.

Cross References

Matthew 10:11

> When you enter a town or village, find someone worthy and stay at that house until you leave.

Mark 6:10

> Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town.

Matthew 10:12

> When you enter a home, greet the people there.

Spiritual Principle

Contentment keeps the mission first.

Key Truth

God's servants should not chase comfort.

V. SHAKE THE DUST OFF

Luke 9:5 — A Testimony

“If people do not welcome you, leave that town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.””

“If people do not welcome you.”

Rejection would come.

“Shake the dust off your feet.”

A public sign.

We have done our part; the responsibility is now yours.

Not revenge, but a solemn warning.

Cross References

Matthew 10:14

> If anyone will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that house or town.

Mark 6:11

> If any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet as you leave, as a warning to them.

Acts 13:51

> So Paul and Barnabas shook the dust off their feet as a protest against them and went to Iconium.

Spiritual Principle

God's messengers are responsible to share, not to force acceptance.

Key Truth

People are responsible for how they respond to the message.

VI. VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

Luke 9:6 — Healing Everywhere

“So they went out and traveled from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.”

“So they went out.”

They obeyed.

“Proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.”

The same ministry Jesus had been doing.

Now multiplied through twelve men.

Cross References

Mark 6:12

> They went out and preached that people should repent.

Mark 6:13

> They drove out many demons and put oil on many sick people and healed them.

Matthew 4:23

> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching, preaching the good news, and healing every disease.

Spiritual Principle

Obedience multiplies ministry.

Key Truth

Jesus' work spreads through His people.

VII. HEROD WAS PUZZLED

Luke 9:7 — John Raised from the Dead?

“Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening and was puzzled. Some said John had been raised from the dead;”

“Herod… was puzzled.”

Confused and troubled.

“Some said John had been raised from the dead.”

Herod had killed John.

His guilty conscience may have troubled him.

Cross References

Matthew 14:1

> At that time Herod the ruler heard the reports about Jesus.

Mark 6:14

> King Herod heard about this, because Jesus' name had become well known. Some said, “John the Baptist has risen from the dead.”

Matthew 16:14

> They said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and still others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Spiritual Principle

A guilty conscience cannot rest.

Key Truth

Everyone has to decide who Jesus is.

VIII. ELIJAH OR A PROPHET?

Luke 9:8 — Many Opinions

“others said Elijah had appeared; still others said one of the prophets had risen.”

People had many opinions about Jesus.

Elijah.

An ancient prophet.

All of them were great men.

But none of them was big enough to explain Jesus.

Cross References

Mark 6:15

> Others said, “He is Elijah.” Still others said, “He is a prophet, like the prophets of long ago.”

Malachi 4:5

Look, I will send you Elijah the prophet before that great and terrible day of the Lord comes.

Matthew 17:10

The followers asked Him, “Why do the teachers of the law say Elijah must come first?”

Spiritual Principle

Human opinions fall short of who Jesus really is.

Key Truth

Calling Jesus a great prophet is not enough.

IX. WHO IS THIS?

Luke 9:9 — Herod Wanted to See Jesus

“But Herod said, “I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?” And he wanted to see Jesus.”

“I beheaded John.”

A chilling confession.

“Who, then, is this?”

The great question of the chapter.

“And he wanted to see Jesus.”

But out of curiosity, not faith.

He would finally see Jesus at His trial.

Cross References

Mark 6:16

When Herod heard this, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!”

Matthew 14:2

He said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist. He has risen from the dead.”

Luke 23:8

> When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. He had wanted to see Him for a long time, hoping to see Him do a miracle.

Spiritual Principle

Curiosity about Jesus is not the same as faith in Him.

Key Truth

Herod wanted to see Jesus, but not to follow Him.

X. THE APOSTLES RETURNED

Luke 9:10 — Withdrawing to Bethsaida

“When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. He took them with Him and withdrew privately to a town called Bethsaida.”

“They reported to Jesus what they had done.”

They gave an account.

“He took them with Him and withdrew privately.”

After ministry comes rest.

Jesus cared for His tired workers.

Cross References

Mark 6:30

> The apostles gathered around Jesus and told Him everything they had done and taught.

Matthew 14:13

> When Jesus heard what had happened, He left by boat and went to a quiet place by Himself.

John 6:1

> After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee.

Spiritual Principle

Servants of God need times of rest with Jesus.

Key Truth

Jesus cares about His workers, not just the work.

XI. HE WELCOMED THEM

Luke 9:11 — The Crowds Followed

“But the crowds found out and followed Him. He welcomed them, spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.”

“The crowds found out and followed Him.”

The rest was interrupted.

“He welcomed them.”

Not annoyed.

Welcoming.

“Spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.”

Jesus gave Himself fully, even when tired.

Cross References

Matthew 14:14

> When Jesus landed, He saw a large crowd. He felt sorry for them and healed their sick.

Mark 6:34

> His heart was moved with pity for them, because they were like sheep with no one to care for them. So He taught them many things.

John 6:2

> A large crowd followed Him because they saw the signs He did by healing the sick.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus welcomes people even when they interrupt.

Key Truth

Interruptions can become opportunities for ministry.

XII. SEND THE CROWD AWAY

Luke 9:12 — A Remote Place

“Late in the day the twelve came to Him and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside to find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.””

“Send the crowd away.”

The disciples' solution.

It seemed practical.

“We are in a remote place here.”

No food.

No way to feed so many.

They saw only the problem.

Cross References

Matthew 14:15

> When evening came, the followers said, “This is a remote place, and it is already late. Send the people away so they can buy food in the villages.”

Mark 6:35

> It was getting late, so His followers came and said, “This is a lonely place, and it is very late.”

John 6:5

> Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming. He said to Philip, “Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?”

Spiritual Principle

Human solutions often send needs away.

Key Truth

The disciples saw a problem; Jesus saw an opportunity.

XIII. YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT

Luke 9:13 — Five Loaves and Two Fish

“But He replied, “You give them something to eat.” They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.””

“You give them something to eat.”

Jesus put the responsibility on them.

He wanted them to see their weakness and His power.

“We have only five loaves of bread and two fish.”

A boy's lunch.

Far too little.

But little is much when it is placed in Jesus' hands.

Cross References

Matthew 14:16

> Jesus answered, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

Mark 6:37

> Jesus said, “You give them food.” They said, “It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread!”

John 6:7

> Philip answered, “Two hundred silver coins' worth of bread would not be enough for each person to have even a little.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus asks us to give what we have.

Key Truth

Our little in Jesus' hands becomes more than enough.

XIV. FIVE THOUSAND MEN

Luke 9:14 — Groups of Fifty

“(There were about five thousand men.) Jesus said to His disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.””

“About five thousand men.”

Plus women and children.

Perhaps fifteen or twenty thousand people.

“Have them sit down in groups of about fifty.”

Jesus brought order.

Like Israel in the wilderness, arranged in groups.

Cross References

Matthew 14:17

> They said, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish here.”

Mark 6:38

> He asked them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” When they found out, they said, “Five loaves and two fish.”

John 6:9

> Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but what good are they for so many people?

Spiritual Principle

God is a God of order.

Key Truth

Jesus organized the crowd before He fed them.

XV. EVERYONE SAT DOWN

Luke 9:15 — The Disciples Did So

“The disciples did so, and everyone sat down.”

The disciples obeyed, even though they did not yet see how it would work.

The people sat down, waiting.

Faith obeys before it sees.

Cross References

Matthew 14:19

> He told the people to sit down on the grass.

Mark 6:39

> Jesus told His followers to have the people sit in groups on the green grass.

John 6:10

> Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass there, and about five thousand men sat down.

Spiritual Principle

Obedience comes before the miracle.

Key Truth

The disciples obeyed before they understood.

XVI. HE GAVE THANKS

Luke 9:16 — Broke and Gave

“Taking the five loaves and two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke them. Then He gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people.”

“Looking up to heaven.”

Jesus looked to the Father.

“He gave thanks.”

Thanksgiving for what seemed too little.

“And broke them.”

“Then He gave them to the disciples to distribute.”

Jesus provided.

The disciples delivered.

Cross References

Matthew 14:19

> He took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, and blessed the food. Then He broke the loaves and gave them to His followers.

Mark 6:41

> Taking the five loaves and two fish, He looked up to heaven, thanked God, and broke the bread.

John 6:11

> Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and passed them out to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish.

Spiritual Principle

Thanksgiving opens the door to God's provision.

Key Truth

Jesus gives, and His disciples pass it on.

XVII. TWELVE BASKETS LEFT OVER

Luke 9:17 — All Were Satisfied

“They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover pieces.”

“They all ate.”

Every person.

“And were satisfied.”

Not just a taste.

Full.

“Twelve baskets of leftover pieces.”

More left over than they started with.

One basket for each disciple.

God gives abundantly.

Cross References

Matthew 14:20

> Everyone ate as much as they wanted, and afterward the followers gathered twelve baskets full of leftovers.

Mark 6:42

> All the people ate and were full.

2 Kings 4:44

> He set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, just as the Lord had said.

Spiritual Principle

God gives more than enough.

Key Truth

With Jesus, there is always more left over.

XVIII. JESUS WAS PRAYING

Luke 9:18 — Who Do the Crowds Say I Am?

“Once when Jesus was praying in private and His disciples were with Him, He asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?””

“When Jesus was praying in private.”

Again, Luke shows Jesus praying before a key moment.

“Who do the crowds say I am?”

Jesus began with what others thought.

It was an easy question.

Cross References

Matthew 16:13

> When Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His followers, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

Mark 8:27

> On the way He asked His followers, “Who do people say I am?”

John 6:67

> Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you want to leave too?”

Spiritual Principle

Important moments are surrounded by prayer.

Key Truth

Jesus prayed before asking the most important question.

XIX. JOHN, ELIJAH, OR A PROPHET

Luke 9:19 — What the Crowds Said

“They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.””

The same opinions Herod heard.

All good guesses.

All wrong.

The crowds knew Jesus was special.

But they did not know who He truly was.

Cross References

Matthew 16:14

> They answered, “Some say You are John the Baptist. Others say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Mark 8:28

> They told Him, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; others say one of the prophets.”

Malachi 4:5

> I will send Elijah the prophet to you before the day of the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Popular opinions about Jesus often fall short.

Key Truth

Knowing what others think about Jesus is not enough.

XX. WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Luke 9:20 — The Christ of God

““But what about you?” He asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Christ of God.””

“But what about you?”

Now it was personal.

“Who do you say I am?”

The most important question anyone will ever answer.

“You are the Christ of God.”

The Messiah.

The Anointed One God promised.

Peter got it right.

Cross References

Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Mark 8:29

Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”

John 6:69

We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God.

Spiritual Principle

Everyone must answer who Jesus is for themselves.

Application

Who do you say Jesus is?

XXI. TELL NO ONE

Luke 9:21 — A Strict Warning

“Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone.”

Why keep it secret?

Many expected a Messiah who would fight Rome.

The disciples did not yet understand that the Messiah must suffer.

They needed to learn what kind of Messiah He was before they told others.

Cross References

Matthew 16:20

Then He warned His followers not to tell anyone He was the Christ.

Mark 8:30

Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about Him.

Isaiah 53:3

> He was hated and rejected by people. He had much pain and suffering.

Spiritual Principle

We must understand Jesus rightly before we proclaim Him.

Key Truth

The Messiah's path was the path of suffering.

XXII. THE SON OF MAN MUST SUFFER

Luke 9:22 — Rejected, Killed, Raised

“He said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and teachers of the law. He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.””

“The Son of Man must suffer.”

“Must.”

It was God's plan.

“Be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and teachers of the law.”

The religious leaders of that day.

“He must be killed.”

The Messiah would die.

“And on the third day be raised to life.”

Death would not be the end.

Cross References

Matthew 16:21

> From that time Jesus began to explain that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things, be killed, and be raised on the third day.

Mark 8:31

> He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected, be killed, and after three days rise again.

Hosea 6:2

> After two days He will give us new life. On the third day He will raise us up, so we may live in His presence.

Spiritual Principle

The way to glory runs through the cross.

Key Truth

Jesus knew exactly what was coming.

XXIII. TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY

Luke 9:23 — Deny Yourself

“Then He said to them all, “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

“If anyone would come after Me.”

An invitation to all.

“He must deny himself.”

Say no to self-rule.

“Take up his cross daily.”

Only Luke says “daily.”

A cross was an instrument of death.

Following Jesus means dying to self every day.

“And follow Me.”

Go where He goes.

Cross References

Matthew 16:24

> Jesus said to His followers, “If anyone wants to come with Me, he must say no to himself, pick up his cross, and follow Me.”

Mark 8:34

> He called the crowd and His followers and said, “Whoever wants to follow Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Galatians 2:20

> My old self died on the cross with Christ. It is no longer me living, but Christ living in me. The life I have now in this body, I live by trusting God's Son, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Spiritual Principle

Following Jesus means dying to self every day.

Key Truth

The cross is not a one-time event; it is a daily choice.

XXIV. LOSE YOUR LIFE TO SAVE IT

Luke 9:24 — For My Sake

“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”

“Whoever wants to save his life will lose it.”

Living for self ends in loss.

“Whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”

Giving our lives to Jesus leads to true life.

This is the great paradox of the kingdom.

Cross References

Matthew 16:25

> Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever gives up his life for Me will find it.

Mark 8:35

> Those who try to keep their lives will lose them. But those who give up their lives for Me and the good news will save them.

John 12:25

> Whoever clings to his life will lose it. But whoever lets go of his life in this world will keep it forever.

Spiritual Principle

True life is found in giving our lives to Jesus.

Key Truth

What we hold on to, we lose; what we give to Jesus, we keep.

XXV. GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD?

Luke 9:25 — Lose His Very Soul

“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet lose or forfeit his very soul?”

Imagine owning everything.

Every kingdom.

Every treasure.

And losing your soul.

It would be the worst trade in history.

Nothing is worth more than your soul.

Cross References

Matthew 16:26

> What good is it if someone gains the whole world but loses his soul? What can he give in exchange for his soul?

Mark 8:36

> It is worth nothing for people to have the whole world if they lose their souls.

Philippians 3:8

> Compared to the priceless gift of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, I count everything else as worthless.

Spiritual Principle

Nothing is worth more than your soul.

Spiritual Warning

Do not trade eternity for the things of this world.

XXVI. ASHAMED OF ME

Luke 9:26 — When He Comes in Glory

“If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”

“If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words.”

Embarrassed to be known as His follower.

“The Son of Man will be ashamed of him.”

A serious warning.

“When He comes in His glory.”

Jesus will return.

The rejected One will come in glory.

Cross References

Matthew 16:27

> The Son of Man will come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will reward each person for what he has done.

Mark 8:38

> If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory.

2 Timothy 2:12

> If we keep going through hardship, we will rule with Him. If we say we do not know Him, He will say He does not know us.

Spiritual Principle

Never be ashamed of Jesus.

Spiritual Warning

Being ashamed of Jesus now has eternal consequences.

XXVII. SOME WILL NOT TASTE DEATH

Luke 9:27 — Before They See the Kingdom

“Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.””

“Some who are standing here.”

“Will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

Bible students understand this in different ways.

Many believe it points to the Transfiguration, which comes next.

Others see it fulfilled in the resurrection, at Pentecost, or in the spread of the church.

In each, the disciples saw God's kingdom revealed in power.

Cross References

Matthew 16:28

> I tell you the truth, some people standing here will see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom before they die.

Mark 9:1

> Some of you standing here will see God's kingdom come with power before you die.

Revelation 1:7

> See, He is coming on the clouds! Every person will see Him, including the very ones who drove the nails.

Spiritual Principle

God's kingdom is revealed in power.

Key Truth

The disciples would soon see a glimpse of Jesus' glory.

XXVIII. UP ON A MOUNTAIN

Luke 9:28 — To Pray

“About eight days after Jesus said this, He took Peter, John, and James with Him and went up on a mountain to pray.”

“About eight days after.”

About a week later.

“He took Peter, John, and James.”

His inner circle.

“Went up on a mountain to pray.”

Only Luke tells us Jesus went up to pray.

Prayer again comes before glory.

Cross References

Matthew 17:1

> Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

Mark 9:2

> Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a high mountain.

Exodus 24:15

> When Moses went up the mountain, the cloud covered it.

Spiritual Principle

God reveals His glory to those who seek Him in prayer.

Key Truth

Glory came while Jesus prayed.

XXIX. HIS FACE CHANGED

Luke 9:29 — Dazzling White

“As He prayed, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became dazzling white.”

“As He prayed.”

“The appearance of His face changed.”

His glory shone through.

“His clothes became dazzling white.”

Like lightning.

For a moment, the disciples saw who Jesus really is.

The glory that was always His.

Cross References

Matthew 17:2

> His appearance was changed before them. His face was as bright as the sun, and His clothing glowed with light.

Mark 9:2

> There His appearance was changed in front of them.

Exodus 34:29

> When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, his face was shining because he had spoken with the Lord, but he did not know it.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' true glory was revealed on the mountain.

Key Truth

Moses' face reflected glory; Jesus' face is the source of it.

XXX. MOSES AND ELIJAH

Luke 9:30 — In Glorious Splendor

“Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus.”

“Moses.”

The great lawgiver.

“And Elijah.”

The great prophet.

Together they represent the Law and the Prophets.

The whole Old Testament.

“Talking with Jesus.”

The Old Testament points to Him.

Cross References

Matthew 17:3

> Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus.

Mark 9:4

> Elijah and Moses appeared before them and were talking with Jesus.

2 Kings 2:11

> While they were walking and talking, fiery horses pulling a fiery chariot came between them, and a whirlwind carried Elijah up into heaven.

Spiritual Principle

The whole Old Testament points to Jesus.

Key Truth

The Law and the Prophets stood beside the One they spoke about.

XXXI. HIS DEPARTURE

Luke 9:31 — To Be Fulfilled in Jerusalem

“They spoke about His coming departure, which He was about to fulfill in Jerusalem.”

“His coming departure.”

The Greek word is “exodus.”

Moses led Israel's exodus from slavery.

Jesus would lead a greater exodus from sin and death.

“Which He was about to fulfill in Jerusalem.”

His death, resurrection, and ascension.

Even in glory, the talk was about the cross.

Cross References

Luke 24:26

> Didn't the Christ have to suffer these things before entering His glory?

Isaiah 53:10

> But the Lord chose to let Him be crushed and suffer, so that His life would become a sacrifice for sin.

Hebrews 2:14

> By His death He could destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.

Spiritual Principle

The cross was the center of God's plan.

Key Truth

Jesus' death would be a new exodus for God's people.

XXXII. THEY SAW HIS GLORY

Luke 9:32 — Very Sleepy

“Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him.”

“Very sleepy.”

They almost missed it.

They would fall asleep again in Gethsemane.

“When they became fully awake, they saw His glory.”

What a sight.

John later wrote, “We saw His glory.”

Cross References

Matthew 17:2

> His face shone like the sun.

Mark 9:3

> His clothes became shining white, whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them.

John 1:14

> We looked on His glory, the glory that belongs to the Father's one and only Son, overflowing with kindness and truth.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual sleepiness can make us miss God's glory.

Application

Are you spiritually awake enough to see what God is doing?

XXXIII. THREE SHELTERS

Luke 9:33 — He Did Not Know What He Was Saying

“As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)”

“Master, it is good for us to be here.”

Peter wanted the moment to last.

“Let us put up three shelters.”

Like the tents of the Festival of Shelters.

But placing Jesus on the same level as Moses and Elijah was a mistake.

“He did not know what he was saying.”

Well-meaning, but wrong.

Jesus is not one great man among many.

Cross References

Leviticus 23:34

> On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, the Festival of Shelters to the Lord begins. It lasts seven days.

Matthew 17:4

> Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You want, I will put up three shelters.”

Mark 9:5

> Peter said to Jesus, “Teacher, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three shelters.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus stands above every other teacher and prophet.

Key Truth

Peter wanted to stay on the mountain, but Jesus was headed for the cross.

XXXIV. A CLOUD COVERED THEM

Luke 9:34 — They Were Afraid

“While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.”

“A cloud appeared and covered them.”

The cloud of God's presence.

Like the cloud on Mount Sinai and over the tabernacle.

“They were afraid.”

God's holy presence is overwhelming.

Cross References

Matthew 17:5

> While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them.

Mark 9:7

> Then a cloud came and covered them.

Exodus 24:16

> The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days.

Spiritual Principle

God's presence is holy and awe-inspiring.

Key Truth

The cloud of glory interrupted Peter's plans.

XXXV. LISTEN TO HIM

Luke 9:35 — My Beloved Son

“A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son; listen to Him.””

“This is My beloved Son.”

As at His baptism.

Some early copies read “My Chosen One.”

Both describe Jesus' unique relationship with the Father.

“Listen to Him.”

Not to Moses or Elijah alone.

To Jesus.

Including His words about the cross.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 18:15

> The Lord your God will raise up a prophet like me from among you. You must listen to Him.

2 Peter 1:17

> God the Father gave Him honor and glory when a voice spoke to Him from God's own greatness: “This is My dear Son, and I take great joy in Him.”

Matthew 3:17

> A voice from heaven said, “This is My Son, the One I love. He brings Me joy.”

Spiritual Principle

God commands us to listen to Jesus.

Key Truth

The Father's word on the mountain was simple: listen to My Son.

XXXVI. JESUS ALONE

Luke 9:36 — They Told No One

“When the voice had spoken, they found Jesus alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and told no one at that time what they had seen.”

“They found Jesus alone.”

Moses and Elijah were gone.

Only Jesus remained.

He is enough.

“They… told no one at that time.”

They would tell later, after the resurrection.

Peter wrote about it years later.

Cross References

Matthew 17:9

> As they came down the mountain, Jesus told them, “Do not tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”

Mark 9:9

> He ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

2 Peter 1:18

> We were there with Him on that holy mountain, and we heard that voice speak from heaven ourselves.

Spiritual Principle

In the end, Jesus alone is enough.

Key Truth

When everything else fades, Jesus remains.

XXXVII. A LARGE CROWD MET HIM

Luke 9:37 — Down from the Mountain

“The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him.”

From glory to need.

From the mountaintop to the valley.

Jesus did not stay on the mountain.

He came down to help people.

Cross References

Matthew 17:14

> When they came to the crowd, a man came to Jesus and knelt before Him.

Mark 9:14

> When they came back to the other followers, they saw a large crowd around them.

Matthew 17:15

> Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly.

Spiritual Principle

Mountaintop experiences prepare us for valley ministry.

Key Truth

Glory leads to service.

XXXVIII. MY ONLY CHILD

Luke 9:38 — Look at My Son

“A man in the crowd cried out, “Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only child.”

“I beg You to look at my son.”

A desperate father.

“For he is my only child.”

Luke again notes an “only” child.

The widow's only son.

Jairus' only daughter.

Now a father's only son.

Jesus cares for parents in their pain.

Cross References

Matthew 17:15

> Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and is suffering badly.

Mark 9:17

> A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought my son to You. He has a spirit that keeps him from talking.”

Mark 9:21

> Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” He answered, “Since he was a child.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus hears the cry of desperate parents.

Key Truth

Jesus cares about our children.

XXXIX. IT IS DESTROYING HIM

Luke 9:39 — Screams and Convulsions

“A spirit seizes him and suddenly he screams. It throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him.”

“A spirit seizes him.”

In this case, the cause was a demon.

“It throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth.”

The symptoms are like seizures.

In this boy's case, Scripture says a spirit was at work.

This does not mean every seizure or illness is caused by a demon.

Many have medical causes, and getting medical care is wise and right.

“Is destroying him.”

Evil always seeks to destroy.

Cross References

Mark 9:18

> Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes stiff.

Mark 9:20

> When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a fit, and he fell to the ground, rolling and foaming at the mouth.

Mark 9:22

> It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. If You can do anything, take pity on us and help us.

Spiritual Principle

Evil seeks to destroy, but Jesus came to give life.

Spiritual Warning

Not every illness is spiritual; wisdom seeks both prayer and medical care.

XL. THEY COULD NOT

Luke 9:40 — The Disciples Failed

“I begged Your disciples to drive it out, but they could not.””

The disciples had been given authority over demons.

They had succeeded before.

But this time they failed.

Mark tells us Jesus later said this kind comes out only by prayer.

Past success does not replace present dependence on God.

Cross References

Mark 9:18

> I asked Your followers to force the spirit out, but they could not.

Matthew 17:16

> I brought him to Your followers, but they could not heal him.

Mark 9:28

> When Jesus went indoors, His followers asked Him privately, “Why couldn't we drive it out?”

Spiritual Principle

Ministry requires ongoing dependence on God.

Key Truth

Yesterday's power does not replace today's prayer.

XLI. UNBELIEVING GENERATION

Luke 9:41 — Bring Your Son Here

““You unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.””

“You unbelieving and perverse generation.”

Jesus grieved over the lack of faith around Him.

“How long shall I stay with you?”

His time on earth was short.

“Bring your son here.”

But He did not turn away.

His frustration with unbelief did not stop His compassion.

Cross References

Matthew 17:17

> Jesus answered, “You people have no faith, and your lives are all wrong. How long must I stay with you? Bring the boy here.”

Mark 9:19

> Jesus answered, “You people without faith! How long must I stay with you? Bring the boy to Me.”

Deuteronomy 32:5

> They have acted corruptly toward Him. They are not His children, but a crooked and twisted generation.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus grieves over unbelief but still shows mercy.

Key Truth

“Bring your son here” is Jesus' invitation to every hurting parent.

XLII. JESUS REBUKED THE SPIRIT

Luke 9:42 — Healed and Given Back

“Even as the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.”

“The demon threw him to the ground.”

One last attack.

“Jesus rebuked the impure spirit.”

A word of command.

“Healed the boy.”

“And gave him back to his father.”

Like the widow's son.

Jesus restores families.

Cross References

Mark 9:20

> As soon as the spirit saw Jesus, it threw the boy into a convulsion.

Mark 9:26

> The spirit shrieked, shook him violently, and came out. The boy looked like he was dead.

Mark 9:27

> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he stood.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus has authority over every evil power.

Key Truth

Jesus gave the boy back to his father whole.

XLIII. THE GREATNESS OF GOD

Luke 9:43 — All Were Amazed

“And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, He said to His disciples,”

“They were all amazed at the greatness of God.”

The people saw God's greatness in what Jesus did.

“While everyone was marveling.”

The crowd was excited.

“He said to His disciples.”

In the middle of the excitement, Jesus turned to His disciples with a sobering message.

Cross References

Mark 2:12

Everyone was amazed and praised God. They said, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Luke 5:26

Everyone was amazed and praised God. They were filled with awe.

Acts 3:10

They were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' works reveal the greatness of God.

Key Truth

Jesus would not let popularity distract Him from the cross.

XLIV. DELIVERED INTO THE HANDS OF MEN

Luke 9:44 — Listen Carefully

““Listen carefully: The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.””

“Listen carefully.”

Let these words sink in.

“The Son of Man is going to be delivered.”

Betrayed and handed over.

“Into the hands of men.”

The One whose hands healed would be placed in sinful human hands.

The second time Jesus foretold His death.

Cross References

Matthew 17:22

> Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be handed over to people.”

Mark 9:31

> He was teaching His followers: “The Son of Man will be handed over to people, and they will kill Him.”

Isaiah 53:6

> We all have wandered away like sheep, each of us going our own way. But the Lord has put on Him the punishment for all the evil we have done.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus willingly went toward the cross.

Key Truth

In the moment of success, Jesus spoke of suffering.

XLV. THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND

Luke 9:45 — Afraid to Ask

“But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them so they could not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask Him about it.”

“They did not understand.”

A suffering Messiah did not fit their expectations.

“It was hidden from them.”

They would understand later, after the resurrection.

“They were afraid to ask Him about it.”

Sometimes we avoid questions because we fear the answer.

Cross References

Mark 9:32

> But the followers did not understand what Jesus meant, and they were afraid to ask Him.

Luke 18:34

> The apostles did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them.

Mark 9:10

> They kept this to themselves, but they discussed what “rising from the dead” meant.

Spiritual Principle

Understanding God's ways often comes later.

Application

Is there a question you are afraid to ask God?

XLVI. WHO WOULD BE THE GREATEST?

Luke 9:46 — An Argument

“An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest.”

Right after Jesus spoke of His suffering, they argued about greatness.

Jesus was going to the cross.

They were thinking about thrones.

Pride is always ready to rise.

Cross References

Matthew 18:1

> At that time the followers came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

Mark 9:33

> When they were in the house, He asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?”

Mark 9:34

> But they kept quiet, because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Spiritual Principle

Pride competes; humility serves.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to follow Jesus and still be ruled by pride.

XLVII. A LITTLE CHILD

Luke 9:47 — Beside Him

“Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside Him.”

“Knowing their thoughts.”

Jesus knew their hearts.

“Took a little child.”

In that culture, children had little status.

“Had him stand beside Him.”

A place of honor.

Jesus gave honor to the one with no status.

Cross References

Matthew 18:2

> Jesus called a little child and stood the child among them.

Mark 9:36

> He took a little child and had the child stand among them. Taking the child in His arms, He said,

Matthew 18:4

> Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus honors the humble.

Key Truth

Jesus placed the least next to Himself.

XLVIII. THE LEAST IS THE GREATEST

Luke 9:48 — Welcoming in My Name

“Then He said to them, “Whoever welcomes this child in My name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me. For it is the least among you all who is the greatest.””

“Whoever welcomes this child in My name welcomes Me.”

Caring for the least is caring for Jesus.

“Whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me.”

And it is caring for God.

“It is the least among you all who is the greatest.”

God's kingdom turns greatness upside down.

Cross References

Matthew 18:5

> Whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me.

Mark 9:37

> Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me. And whoever welcomes Me welcomes not only Me but also the One who sent Me.

Matthew 20:26

> If any of you wants to be important, you must serve the others.

Spiritual Principle

True greatness comes through humility and serving others.

Key Truth

In God's kingdom, the way up is down.

XLIX. NOT ONE OF US

Luke 9:49 — John's Complaint

““Master,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in Your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us.””

“We saw someone driving out demons in Your name.”

Someone was doing good in Jesus' name.

“We tried to stop him.”

Why?

“Because he is not one of us.”

Not part of their group.

The disciples had just failed to cast out a demon.

Now they tried to stop someone who succeeded.

Cross References

Mark 9:38

> John said, “Teacher, we saw someone forcing demons out in Your name, and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

Numbers 11:27

> A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

Numbers 11:28

> Joshua son of Nun, Moses' helper since he was young, said, “Moses, my master, stop them!”

Spiritual Principle

God works through people outside our own circle.

Spiritual Warning

Beware of a spirit that wants to control who may serve Jesus.

L. DO NOT STOP HIM

Luke 9:50 — Whoever Is Not Against You

“‘Do not stop him,’ Jesus said, ‘for whoever is not against you is for you.’”

“Do not stop him.”

Jesus corrected John.

“Whoever is not against you is for you.”

Do not treat other believers as enemies just because they are not in your group.

Elsewhere Jesus said, “Whoever is not with Me is against Me.”

Both are true.

No one can be neutral toward Jesus, but His followers should not be narrow toward one another.

Cross References

Mark 9:40

> Whoever is not against us is on our side.

Numbers 11:29

> Moses said, “Are you upset on my behalf? I would be glad if every one of the Lord's people could prophesy and the Lord gave all of them His Spirit!”

Matthew 12:30

> Anyone who does not stand with Me stands against Me, and anyone who does not help Me gather is scattering.

Spiritual Principle

Followers of Jesus should welcome others who serve in His name.

Key Truth

The kingdom is bigger than our group.

LI. HE SET OUT FOR JERUSALEM

Luke 9:51 — Resolutely

“As the time approached for Him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”

“As the time approached for Him to be taken up to heaven.”

His death, resurrection, and ascension were near.

“Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”

Literally, “He set His face.”

Firm determination.

He knew what waited for Him there.

He went anyway.

From here, Luke's Gospel follows Jesus on His journey to the cross.

Cross References

2 Kings 2:1

> When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were traveling from Gilgal.

Mark 10:32

> They were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them.

Isaiah 50:7

> Because the Lord God is My helper, I will not be humiliated. So I have made My face as hard as stone, sure that I will never be ashamed.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus went to the cross willingly and with determination.

Key Truth

Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem for us.

LII. A SAMARITAN VILLAGE

Luke 9:52 — Messengers Ahead

“He sent messengers ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for Him.”

“He sent messengers ahead.”

To prepare a place to stay.

“Into a Samaritan village.”

Samaritans and Jews had a long history of hostility.

Yet Jesus planned to stay with them.

He reached across the divide.

Cross References

Malachi 3:1

> I am sending My messenger, who will prepare the way before Me.

John 4:4

> His route took Him through the land of Samaria.

Matthew 10:5

> Jesus sent out these twelve with these instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any Samaritan town.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus reaches across lines of hostility.

Key Truth

Jesus was willing to stay with people others avoided.

LIII. THEY DID NOT WELCOME HIM

Luke 9:53 — Heading for Jerusalem

“But the people there did not welcome Him, because He was heading for Jerusalem.”

“The people there did not welcome Him.”

Rejection again.

“Because He was heading for Jerusalem.”

Samaritans worshiped on Mount Gerizim, not in Jerusalem.

Old religious divisions made them reject Him.

Cross References

John 4:9

> The Samaritan woman said, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can You ask me for a drink?” Jews and Samaritans did not get along.

John 4:20

> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say people must worship in Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 4:1

> When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became very angry and made fun of the Jews.

Spiritual Principle

Old divisions can keep people from receiving Jesus.

Key Truth

Prejudice can close the door to the Savior.

LIV. FIRE FROM HEAVEN?

Luke 9:54 — James and John

“When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do You want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?””

“James and John.”

Jesus called them the “Sons of Thunder.”

“Call fire down from heaven to destroy them?”

They remembered Elijah calling down fire.

Some early copies add “as Elijah did.”

They wanted revenge.

They had just heard Jesus teach about loving enemies.

Cross References

2 Kings 1:10

> Elijah answered the captain, “If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and destroy you and your fifty men!” Then fire came down and destroyed them.

2 Kings 1:12

> Then the fire of God came down from heaven and burned up the captain and his fifty men.

Luke 6:35

> Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend without expecting anything back. He is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Spiritual Principle

Followers of Jesus must not seek revenge on those who reject Him.

Spiritual Warning

Zeal without love becomes destructive.

LV. JESUS REBUKED THEM

Luke 9:55 — Turned and Rebuked

“But Jesus turned and rebuked them.”

“Jesus turned.”

He faced them.

“And rebuked them.”

Firmly.

Some early copies add, “You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy people's lives but to save them.”

Whether or not those words were in the original, they fit what Jesus taught everywhere.

Cross References

Matthew 5:44

> Show love to your enemies, and pray for the people who attack you.

Luke 6:36

> Show mercy, because your Father shows mercy.

James 1:20

> Our anger never brings about the right living God is looking for.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus rejects revenge, even in His name.

Key Truth

Jesus came to save, not to destroy.

LVI. ANOTHER VILLAGE

Luke 9:56 — They Went On

“Then He and His disciples went to another village.”

No fire.

No revenge.

Jesus simply moved on.

He would not force Himself on them.

In Acts, Samaria later welcomed the gospel with great joy.

Cross References

John 3:17

God sent His Son into the world not to judge it guilty, but to rescue it through Him.

John 12:47

I came to bring the world salvation, not to pass sentence on it.

Luke 19:10

The Son of Man came to search for lost people and rescue them.

Spiritual Principle

When rejected, move on in grace.

Key Truth

The Samaritans who rejected Jesus would later receive the gospel.

LVII. I WILL FOLLOW YOU

Luke 9:57 — Wherever You Go

“As they were walking along the road, a man said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.””

“As they were walking along the road.”

The road to Jerusalem.

The road to the cross.

“I will follow You wherever You go.”

A bold promise.

But did he know where Jesus was going?

Cross References

Matthew 8:19

A teacher of the law came to Him and said, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”

Mark 8:34

Whoever wants to be My follower must deny himself.

Luke 5:11

They left everything and followed Him.

Spiritual Principle

Following Jesus requires counting the cost.

Key Truth

Enthusiasm must be matched by understanding.

LVIII. NO PLACE TO LAY HIS HEAD

Luke 9:58 — Foxes and Birds

“Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.””

“Foxes have dens and birds have nests.”

Even animals have homes.

“But the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.”

Jesus had just been turned away from a village.

Following Him meant giving up comfort and security.

Jesus was honest about the cost.

Cross References

Matthew 8:20

> Jesus said, “Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to rest His head.”

2 Corinthians 8:9

> He was rich, yet He made Himself poor because of you, so His becoming poor could make you rich.

John 1:11

> He came to His own people, but His own people did not accept Him.

Spiritual Principle

Following Jesus may cost us comfort.

Key Truth

Jesus never hid the cost of discipleship.

LIX. FIRST LET ME BURY MY FATHER

Luke 9:59 — Follow Me

“He said to another man, “Follow Me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.””

“Follow Me.”

Jesus called him.

“Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

It sounds reasonable.

His father may not even have died yet.

He may have meant, “Let me wait until my father dies and I receive my inheritance.”

“First” is the key word.

Something else came before Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 8:21

Another follower said to Him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

1 Kings 19:20

Elisha said, “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye, and then I will follow you.”

Matthew 4:22

At once they left the boat and their father and followed Him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus must come first.

Key Truth

Delayed obedience is often disobedience.

LX. LET THE DEAD BURY THEIR DEAD

Luke 9:60 — Proclaim the Kingdom

“Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.””

“Let the dead bury their own dead.”

Let the spiritually dead take care of such matters.

Jesus was not teaching disrespect for parents.

He was teaching that His call must come before everything else.

“But you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

A greater task.

Bringing life to the spiritually dead.

Cross References

Matthew 8:22

Jesus told him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

Ephesians 2:1

You were spiritually dead because of your sins and the wrong things you did.

1 Timothy 5:6

A widow who lives only to enjoy herself is spiritually dead, even though she is still breathing.

Spiritual Principle

The call of Jesus takes priority over every other claim.

Key Truth

The kingdom of God cannot wait.

LXI. FIRST LET ME SAY GOODBYE

Luke 9:61 — To My Family

“Still another said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.””

“I will follow You, Lord.”

“But first.”

That word again.

“Let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”

Elijah allowed Elisha to do this.

But Jesus saw a divided heart.

His heart was still looking back.

Cross References

1 Kings 19:20

Elisha left his oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye.”

Matthew 8:21

Lord, let me first go and bury my father.

Philippians 3:13

I put the past behind me and stretch forward to what lies ahead.

Spiritual Principle

A divided heart cannot fully follow Jesus.

Key Truth

“Lord, but first” is a contradiction.

LXII. NO LOOKING BACK

Luke 9:62 — Fit for the Kingdom

“Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.””

“Puts a hand to the plow.”

A farmer must look straight ahead to plow a straight line.

“And looks back.”

If he looks back, the furrow goes crooked.

“Is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Following Jesus requires full commitment.

No turning back.

Cross References

Genesis 19:26

Lot's wife turned around to look behind her, and she was changed into a column of salt.

Philippians 3:14

I keep running toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly call through Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 10:38

My righteous one will live by faith. But if he turns back, I will not be pleased with him.

Spiritual Principle

Following Jesus requires full commitment without turning back.

Spiritual Warning

Looking back keeps us from going forward with Jesus.

LXIII. FIVE GREAT LESSONS FROM LUKE 9

1. Discipleship Requires Trust and Readiness

“Take nothing for your journey.”

Principle:

Discipleship requires trust, simplicity, and readiness to proclaim the kingdom.

2. Suffering Before Glory

“The Son of Man must suffer many things.”

Principle:

Jesus is the Christ, but His path includes suffering before glory.

3. Greatness Through Humility

“It is the least among you all who is the greatest.”

Principle:

True greatness comes through humility and serving others.

4. Full Commitment Without Excuses

“No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Principle:

Following Jesus demands full commitment without excuses or turning back.

5. The Cost Is High, the Reward Eternal

“Whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”

Principle:

The cost of discipleship is high, but the reward is eternal life in God's kingdom.

LXIV. THE GREAT QUESTION

Luke 9 is built around one question: Who is Jesus?

Herod Asked

“Who, then, is this?”

The Crowds Guessed

“John the Baptist… Elijah… one of the prophets.”

Jesus Asked

“Who do you say I am?”

Peter Answered

“You are the Christ of God.”

The Father Declared

“This is My beloved Son; listen to Him.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Everyone must answer the question, “Who do you say Jesus is?”

LXV. THE CROSS AND THE CROWN

Luke 9 shows that glory comes through suffering.

Jesus Predicted His Suffering

“The Son of Man must suffer… be killed and… be raised.”

Jesus Revealed His Glory

“His clothes became dazzling white.”

Moses and Elijah Spoke of His Departure

“His coming departure… in Jerusalem.”

Jesus Predicted It Again

“Delivered into the hands of men.”

Jesus Set His Face

“Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”

Key Truth

For Jesus and His followers, the cross comes before the crown.

LXVI. THREE WOULD-BE FOLLOWERS

Jesus met three people who wanted to follow Him.

The Eager One

“I will follow You wherever You go.”

Jesus warned about the cost of comfort.

The Delayed One

“First let me go and bury my father.”

Jesus called for His kingdom to come first.

The Divided One

“First let me go back and say goodbye.”

Jesus warned against looking back.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus calls for followers who count the cost, put Him first, and never look back.

LXVII. WHAT LUKE 9 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Gives Power to His Followers

“Gave them power and authority.”

He Provides Abundantly

“They all ate and were satisfied.”

He Is the Christ of God

“You are the Christ of God.”

He Is the Suffering Son of Man

“The Son of Man must suffer many things.”

He Is the Glorious Son

“They saw His glory.”

He Is the Beloved Son of the Father

“This is My beloved Son; listen to Him.”

He Is Determined to Save

“Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”

He Came to Save, Not Destroy

“Jesus turned and rebuked them.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the Christ of God, glorious in majesty, who set His face to suffer and die to save us.

LXVIII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What did Jesus give the twelve when He sent them out?

Power and authority over demons and to heal diseases.

Question 2

Why did Jesus tell them to take nothing for the journey?

To teach them to depend completely on God's provision.

Question 3

Why was Herod puzzled about Jesus?

Some said John had risen from the dead, and Herod had beheaded John.

Question 4

What did the disciples have to feed the five thousand?

Five loaves and two fish.

Question 5

How did Peter answer Jesus' question, “Who do you say I am?”

“You are the Christ of God.”

Question 6

What did Jesus say would happen to the Son of Man?

He must suffer, be rejected, be killed, and be raised on the third day.

Question 7

What does it mean to take up your cross daily?

To deny yourself and follow Jesus every day, even when it costs you.

Question 8

What did Moses and Elijah talk about with Jesus?

His coming departure, or exodus, which He would fulfill in Jerusalem.

Question 9

What did the voice from the cloud say?

“This is My beloved Son; listen to Him.”

Question 10

How did Jesus answer the argument about who was greatest?

He placed a child beside Him and said the least is the greatest.

Question 11

Why did Jesus rebuke James and John?

Because they wanted to call down fire on a Samaritan village that rejected Him.

Question 12

What should Luke 9 change about the way Christians live today?

Luke 9 should cause believers to live:

- Trusting God's provision.
- Bringing their little to Jesus.

- Confessing Jesus as the Christ.
- Taking up their cross daily.
- Listening to Jesus above all others.
- Serving humbly instead of seeking greatness.
- Loving those who reject them.
- Following Jesus without excuses or looking back.

LXIX. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Luke 9 asks several important questions.

Do I Trust God to Provide?

Or do I depend on my own resources?

Have I Given My Little to Jesus?

Like the five loaves and two fish?

Who Do I Say Jesus Is?

Not what others say, but what I believe?

Am I Taking Up My Cross Daily?

Or am I avoiding the cost?

Am I Listening to Jesus?

Above every other voice?

Am I Seeking Greatness or Service?

Do I compete or serve?

How Do I Respond to Rejection?

With revenge or with grace?

Is There a “But First” in My Life?

What am I putting before Jesus?

LXX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Take Up His Cross Daily”

Jesus had just been named the Christ of God.

The disciples were thrilled.

Then He spoke of suffering.

Rejection.

Death.

And He turned to them all and said:

“If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

Not once.

Daily.

Every morning, the follower of Jesus chooses again.

To say no to self.

To say yes to Jesus.

To follow Him wherever He leads.

This creates a powerful principle.

Discipleship is not a single decision.

It is a daily surrender.

Principle:

Following Jesus means choosing the cross again every day.

LXXI. FINAL APPLICATION

Luke Chapter 9 marks a turning point.

Jesus sends out the twelve.

He feeds five thousand.

Peter confesses Him as the Christ.

Jesus foretells His death.

His glory shines on the mountain.

The Father says, “Listen to Him.”

He heals a boy the disciples could not help.

He teaches that the least is the greatest.

He rebukes revenge.

And He sets His face toward Jerusalem.

Luke 9 therefore reminds us:

Never rely on your own resources instead of God.

Never be ashamed of Jesus.

Never seek greatness for yourself.

Never answer rejection with revenge.

Never say, “Lord, but first.”

The church does not need people who only admire Jesus' glory.

It needs:

People who confess Him as the Christ of God.

People who take up their cross daily.

People who serve humbly.

And people who follow Him without looking back.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that Jesus is the Christ of God.

Tell people that He suffered and rose again.

Tell people that true life comes from losing our lives for Him.

Tell people that the kingdom of God is here.

And as you live:

Deny yourself.

Take up your cross.

Listen to Jesus.

Never look back.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that Jesus equips and sends His people.

Thank You that He takes our little and makes it more than enough.

Thank You that Jesus is the Christ of God.

Thank You that He set His face toward Jerusalem to suffer and die for us.

Thank You for the glimpse of His glory on the mountain.

Thank You that He came to save, not to destroy.

Forgive us when we have depended on ourselves instead of You.

Forgive us when we have been ashamed of Jesus.

Forgive us when we have argued about greatness.

Forgive us when we have wanted revenge.

Forgive us when we have said, “Lord, but first.”

Help us take up our cross daily.

Help us listen to Jesus above every other voice.

Make us humble servants.

And help us follow Him wholeheartedly, never looking back.

“This is My beloved Son; listen to Him.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” — Luke 9:23

Central Truth

Jesus is the Christ of God, whose path to glory runs through the cross, and He calls His followers to deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Him with full commitment.

Luke 9 in One Sentence

Jesus sends out the twelve, feeds five thousand, is confessed by Peter as the Christ, foretells His death and calls His followers to take up their cross daily, reveals His glory on the mountain, heals a boy His disciples could not, teaches humility and grace, and sets His face toward Jerusalem while calling for full commitment from all who would follow Him.