

Luke 9.37-62

“One More Week, One More Year”

Palm Sunday BEGAN Most IMPORTANT Week in ALL of HISTORY

Week > Savior Earns ETERNAL REDEMPTION for the PEOPLE of GOD

Most Important Week of MY LIFE > Believed on Jesus Easter 1972

PALM SUNDAY > End of JOURNEY that Begins in Today’s Text in Luke 9

JOURNEY to Jerusalem > MAJOR Theme of Luke

Luke Volume 1: Jesus on Earth / Luke Volume 2: Jesus in Heaven

Going TO Jerusalem / Going FROM Jerusalem

Luke > 10 Chapters getting to Jerusalem > ONLY Luke Presents this Perspective

FIRST VERSE in Volume 2: In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began *to do and to teach*... Acts 1.1

UP to Chapter 9 > FOCUS on What Jesus DID – 13 MIRACLES Recorded

FROM Chapter 9 > FOCUS on What Jesus TAUGHT – Loved Parables & Sayings

1. One More Year for the Disciples

a. We Need Power

Mt. of Transfiguration > Revelation of GLORY and POWER of Jesus

FULFILLS LAW and PROPHETS > MOSES & ELIJAH LISTEN to HIM

STRIKING CONTRAST – POWER on Mtn > PEETERED OUT on the PLAINS

Basked in LIGHT of God on Mtn Top / Beaten by DARKNESS of Evil in CITY

1) Word of Jesus

vs. 37- 41 The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into

convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not."...

CROWDS > Permanent FIXTURE of Narrative since FEEDING of 5000

PREVIOUSLY Known POWER and EFFECTIVENESS of God working thru them:

Jesus had called the Twelve together; he gave them power and authority to drive out *all demons and to cure diseases*... Luke 9.1

v. 41 "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? "Bring your son here."

WHO does Jesus REBUKE here? > NOT Father – he was NOT a GENERATION FATHER is Quoted by Mark: "I believe, help my unbelief!" Mark 9.24

GENERATION > Israel wanted GIFTS but not GOD THE GIVER

They have acted corruptly toward him; to their shame they are no longer his children, but a warped and crooked generation. Deuteronomy 32.5

One of GREAT SUFFERINGS of Jesus' LIFE on EARTH > His OWN Disciples!

HOW LONG must Jesus teach SAME LESSONS – Over & Over – One More Year?

PARENT > When Will CHILD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY for their ACTIONS?

"Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. Luke 8.25

Point NOT that Need FAITH to Cast out DEMONS > RARELY HAPPENS

POINT > Need FAITH for Everything – INCLUDING Casting out Demons

NEED Jesus in ALL We Do – Family, Job, School, Church – All of Life

If DARKNESS REIGNS > Turn on LIGHT > Do NOT CURSE the Darkness

LIGHTS of the World were POOR REFLECTION of THE LIGHT of the World

v. 42 Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father.

DEMONS try one FINAL Assault of TERROR in Body of Helpless Boy

DEVIL's GOAL > KILL, STEAL, and DESTROY > BODY and SOUL

Jesus had CALMED a STORM / CAST out a LEGION of Demons

Word of Jesus No Match for EVIL: Rebukes, Restores, REUNITES Father & Son

2) Work of Jesus

vs. 43,44 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men."

Jesus SHIFTS from POPULARITY to PASSION> Not Swayed by FICKLE Crowd

PALM SUNDAY cries of HOSANA turned to HE DESERVES to DIE!

WISHES of MAN would not ALTER the WILL of God or RESOLVE of Savior

2nd Time PRIVATE Message for Disciples > DARK Clouds on HORIZON

v. 22 "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

Disciples MORE Interested in POWER and GLORY than DEATH & SUFFERING

NEW Emphasis in THIS Account of His SUFFERINGS –

1) Pay CLOSE ATTENTION: “listen carefully”

2) HANDING Over will be BY THEM or Someone CLOSE: “BETRAYED”

3) Done by GENTILES and JEWS: “hands of MEN” – SAVIOR of the World

v. 45 But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.

LUKE Emphasizes INABILITY to Understand > Just TOLD Them back in Vs. 22
 QUADRUPLE Negative – Not Understand / Hidden / Not Grasp / Afraid to Ask

INCOMPREHENSIBLE > IMAGINE Population SHORTAGE in China? Hardly?

2 Realities – IRRECONCILABLE – HONOR of Jesus & HORROR He'd Endure

Exalted SON of MAN became ABANDONED SUFFERING Servant

b. We Need Love

Sometimes the LIVES of Believers DRAW Unbelievers to Christ

Sometimes – Very SAD to Say – it is just OPPOSITE – POOR Reflection of Jesus

1) for Each other - v. 46 An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest.

3 Bragged “He loves us MORE – He took US up Mtn. of Transfiguration”

Other 9: He took you because he Does NOT TRUST you – Stay in Constant SIGHT

Reason for LACK of Insight? So FULL of Themselves > No Thought for OTHERS

Do NOT UNDERSTAND Jesus and His Mission > No CLUE of own IDENTITY

PATHETIC – PERVERSE for such FOOLS to Argue about their GREATNESS

Most POINTLESS Debate in Human History: Competition for TALLEST PYGMY

v. 47 Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him.

PERHAPS the Very CHILD he JUST DELIVERED from DEMONIC ATTACK

You ACT like CHILDREN > HERE! LEARN from this CHILD! He is GREATER!

RABBI'S Generally IGNORED Children > Jesus SEES and Brings them CLOSE

v. 48 Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all--he is the greatest."

Takes HUMILITY to Befriend a Child – Get Down on THEIR Level, Look in Eye
Jesus turns SOCIAL PYRAMID UPSIDE DOWN! CHILD is HONORED One!

To receive the child is to receive the Christ and to receive the Christ is to receive the Father.
Leon Morris

TRUE Greatness is OPPOSITE of World's OPINION > Lowest is GREATEST

Jesus is PERFECT EXAMPLE – HUMBLER Himself – Put OTHERS First

Jesus rides DONKEY – Not White Stallion – into City of David on PALM Sunday

Jesus served others first; He spoke to those to whom no one spoke; He dined with the lowest members of the society; He touched the untouchables. He had no throne, no crown, no bevy of servants or armored guards. A borrowed manger and a borrowed tomb framed his earthly life. Kings and presidents and prime ministers surround themselves with minions who rush ahead, swing the doors wide, and stand at attention as they wait for the great to pass. Jesus said that He Himself stands at the door and knocks, patiently waiting to enter our lives.
Charles Colson

Jesus SEES Widows, Orphans, Street Children, Prisoners, Immigrants, Disabled

Jesus GAVE to People who had NOTHING to Give Him in RETURN

FOLLOW Jesus in Serving OUR Own Kids here in our CHURCH and in Our CITY

When the least are the greatest, all are great and the search for greatness becomes unnecessary.
Darrell Bock

2) for Other Believers v. 49 "Master," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us."

Jesus Ministry attracted much INTEREST and MANY IMITATORS

Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out" ...the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. Acts 19.13-16

FREELANCE Exorcist > Not Following Jesus in ORTHODOX Tradition

JEALOUS about THEIR Success??? Contrasting FAILURE of the DISCIPLES
Even FIRST Believers Struggled with DIVISION and DENOMINATIONALISM

One of GREAT DANGERS in War is FRIENDLY FIRE

John had BEEN with Jesus and SEEN the Glory of TRANSFIGURATION

“OUTSIDER” was DOING what they COULD NOT > Drive out DEMONS!

The spirit of exclusivism entered the church quite early and it has certainly stayed late.
Fred Craddock

v. 50 "Do not stop him," Jesus said, "for whoever is not against you is for you."

Far NORTH of SCOTLAND > Many PRESBYTERIAN Churches

One Village Presb. Pastor PROBLEM – Member of BAPTIST Family Died
NO Baptist PASTOR in Area > Family asked Presby to Conduct FUNERAL
Sent Cable to Presby HQ in Edinburgh “Can I Bury a Baptist?”
Answer: “By all means! Bury all the Baptists you Can!”

No NEUTRALITY in FIGHT Against EVIL > Allied with ENEMIES of EVIL

In every period of Church history, Christians have copied John’s mistake. They have labored to stop every man who will not work for Christ in their way, from working for Christ at all. They have imagined, in their petty self-conceit, that no man can be a soldier of Christ, unless he wears the uniform and fights in their regiment... We forget that no Church on earth has an absolute monopoly of all wisdom, and that people may be right in the main, without agreeing with us. We

must learn to be thankful if sin is opposed, and the Gospel preached, and the devil's kingdom pulled down, though the work may not be done exactly in the way we like...Above all, we must praise God if souls are converted, and Christ is magnified – no matter who the preacher may be, and to what Church he may belong.

Bishop J.C. Ryle

3) for Enemies v. 52 And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him;

SAMARIA > Located between GALILEE and JUDEA

MIXED RACE People > JEWS Inter-Married with GENTILES > HATED by Jews

v. 53 but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.

Samaritan Religion > Believed Moses, Looked for Messiah, Centered Mt. Gerazim

LAST Thing Samaritan want HELP Jew get to Jerusalem, WRONG Place Worship

Jesus REJECTED > Bethlehem, Galilee, Nazareth, Samaria, Jerusalem!

v. 54 When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"

John the APOSTLE of LOVE is NOT THERE YET!

Disciples same OT Perspective of JOHN BAPTIZER > Day of JUDGMENT

Come!

ELIJAH had CALLED Down FIRE on ENEMIES of God > Type & ANTItype

But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.

Luke 9.55,56 KJV

Found in ANCIENT Manuscripts > PROBABLY Commentary of SCRIBE

But ACCURATE Presentation of HEART of Jesus > SEEK & SAVE the LOST

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19.10

ANOTHER Sad CONTRAST in Passage > Jesus came to SAVE the Lost
 DISCIPLES want to SLAY Them --- In the Name of RIGHTEOUS God!
 Do WE Show kind of Sacrificial Love that Shows we Follow CRUCIFIED Savior?
 vs. 55,56 But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village.

It is possible to have much zeal for Christ, and yet to exhibit it in most unholy and unchristian ways. It is possible to mean well and have good intentions, and yet to make most grievous mistakes in our actions. It is possible to fancy that we have Scripture on our side, and to support our conduct by Scriptural quotations, and yet to commit serious errors.
 Bishop J.C. Ryle

We need ZEAL of Jesus AND COMPASSION of Jesus for GLORY of God

To be a servant of the gospel is not to highlight judgment or long for execution, but to seek to save lives as long as God allows.
 Darrell Bock

c. We Need Discipline

1) Comforts v. 57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

ON THE ROAD > Exact Location NOT Important to Luke > Spiritual Journey

NIV > MAN – Greek word NOT Specific > Could be MAN or WOMAN!

Travel, Excitement, Romance > Follow Jesus and Homeboys over Rolling Hills!

Person thought they'd follow ORDINARY RABBI > Relax, Reflect, Recite Torah

EXPENSE Account – MEDICAL Insurance – TRIPS to THAILAND in Winter

v. 58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

ANIMALS have HOME to Return to at NIGHT > NOT Jesus and His Followers

Following RABBI > Walking BEHIND him > Staying where HE STAYED

Jesus MORE like PROPHET than Rabbi > HOMELESS EVANGELIST

Jesus never hides His scars when inviting disciples.

James Boice

Jesus warned: The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. Luke 8.14

Jesus DEMANDS New Set of Values > CONSUMERISM to CONTENTMENT

NO THING should Come BETWEEN Us and FOLLOWING Jesus

If God is our DWELLING PLACE we can LEAVE ALL and FOLLOW Jesus

2) Commitments v. 59 He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

WANTS to Come – FIRST wants NEGOTIATE Terms of his COMING

Wants SIGNING BONUS before he will PLAY for TEAM JESUS & APOSTLES

He was worried about someone else's funeral when he should have been planning his own.

Warren Wiersbe

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

SHOCKING word to ASIAN Ears > FAMILY Loyalties and Honor are PRIMARY

Father NOT Dead > Die BURIED w/in 24 Hours – SIT Home w/ Family & Mourn

The radicality of Jesus' words lies in his claim to priority over the best, not the worst of human relationships. Jesus never said to choose him over the devil, but to choose him over the family. And the remarkable thing is that those who have done so have been freed from the possession and worship of family and have found the distance necessary to love them.

Fred Craddock

Jesus DIFFERENT Set of LOYALTIES, Rituals for Dead done by Spiritually Dead
 Follow HIM to GET LIFE for Yourself AND to GIVE LIFE to OTHERS
 Sometimes FOLLOWING Jesus is CARING for Family > Do so as HIS Follower

3) Courtesies v. 61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-by to my family."

Seems like SMALL Thing – REASONABLE Request - Family would WORRY!
 Noble Request > Want to FOCUS on the FAMILY > 2 X's FIRST let me Do This!
 Elijah allowed Elisha to return HOME to Say GOOD-BYE > NOT Jesus!
 FOCUS on SAVIOR – FIRST is HIS AGENDA for Kingdom & Glory are His!

v. 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Farmer who LOOKS Back CUTS Crooked FURROW into Harvest Field
 LOOK Back it means you WANT to GO BACK – Doubting Choice to FOLLOW
 IF you SECOND-GUESS Choice to FOLLOW Christ He is NOT FIRST Choice

Remember Lot's wife! Luke 17.32

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple.
 Luke 14.26

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can....*as soon as you can*
 John Wesley

RESPONSES Not Recorded > LEFT to WONDER – about THEM, about US?

God wants US to WRITE END of OUR STORY – Look at Jesus, Don't Look Back
HOW looks DIFFERS for EACH of US – Some serve Near Home, Far from Home

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

Psalm 73.25

2. One More Week for Jesus

v. 51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

Verse TURNING Point in Jesus' Life > DECISIVE Embrace of His DESTINY
HEADING for JERUSALEM > Journey Details ONLY in Luke

Luke 9:51 – 18:14 > Teachings of Jesus only Recorded in Luke's Gospel

FROM Chapter 18:15 > Luke follows PATTERN of Matthew & Mark's GOSPELS

a. Taken Up v. 51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

To be TAKEN UP is FINAL Goal of Journey to JERUSALEM –

'Taken Up' Only time NOUN Used in NEW Testament

UP > for Luke – On CROSS – Risen to Resurrection – LIFTED to ASCENSION

Jesus LOOKING Ahead to BOTH His CROSS and His CROWN

Jesus...who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame...

Hebrews 12.2

After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied

Isaiah 53.11

VERB Form of Word Used by Luke in Acts:

all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was *taken up to heaven...*
Acts 1.1,2

Luke BORROWS FAMILIAR Picture from HEBREW SCRIPTURE – ‘Taken Up’
As they (Elijah and Elisha) were walking along and talking together, suddenly a
chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and *Elijah*
went up to heaven in a whirlwind. 2 Kings 2.11

b. Face Up

It is in Jerusalem, the centerpiece of the Jewish world, with its holy place and holy
people, that God’s aim must finally become manifest and be achieved, and from
Jerusalem that the universal mission must have its beginning. Joel Green

IN Jerusalem: Religious Leader PLOTTED Against Him – BETRAYED by Kiss
ARRESTED by Temple Police, ABUSED by Soldiers, ARRAIGNED False Charges
INTERROGATED by King & Governor & Council – ACCUSED by Angry Mob
Received UNJUST Sentence on FALSE CHARGES –SAVAGELY Beaten
NAILED Naked to Cross of Wood – Hastily BURIED in Tomb
Jesus KNEW – All This – And MORE Awaited Him in Jerusalem
Entered City WEEPING – Not for Himself – DESTROYED for Rejecting Messiah

What Jesus suffered was not some unfortunate accident, but the direct result of his
deliberate obedience to his divine calling as the Savior of the world. Philip Ryken

vs. 51-53 ASV And it came to pass, when the days were well-nigh come that he
should be received up, he steadfastly *set his face to go to Jerusalem*, and *sent*
messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the
Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because *his face*
was as though he were going to Jerusalem.

I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my
beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign

LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I *set my face like flint*, and I know I will not be put to shame. Isaiah 50.6,7

...he was heading for Jerusalem. Luke 9.53

Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Luke 13.22

Jesus: "I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day--for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!" Luke 13.33

The main message of the gospel is not that Jesus can perform exorcisms and work wonders, although of course he can, but that he came to suffer and die for our sins. Philip Ryken

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. Luke 17.11

Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again." The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about. Luke 18.31-34

ONE YEAR Later – Now IN Jerusalem – STILL do NOT Understand!!

Jesus was Their PRIVATE TUTOR – Front Row Seat to all he Did & Said

Walking with Jesus for 1 year – or 1000 years – Will NOT Change Person

No Transformation by PROXIMITY to Jesus > Change by POWER of Jesus

Going to CHURCH does NOT make you a CHRISTIAN

Working in STARBUCK'S does NOT turn you into a COFFEE BEAN

c. Filled Up > ASCENDED Lord to Send GIFT of His ASCENSION

FINAL Event in Accomplishment of Salvation> Baptism of Holy Spirit

Spirit of Living Jesus comes to Live Inside Us > Make Us New In Him

Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. Acts 2.33

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.... The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. 2 Kings 2.9,15

When we serve in our OWN Strength – People cannot see Power of Holy Spirit

What RISEN JESUS does: Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" ... Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

Luke 24.31,32,45

LUKE and JOHN are Describing TWO-SIDES of Same Coin > KNOWING Jesus
And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. John 20.22

Want to UNDERSTAND Scripture > Must be FILLED with HOLY SPIRIT
Want to be FILLED with HOLY SPIRIT > Must UNDERSTAND Scripture

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1.7

Luke 9.37-62

37. The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him.

38. A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. 39. A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. 40. I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not."

41. "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." 42. Even while the boy was

coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father.

43. And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples,

44. "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men." 45. But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.

46. An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. 47. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. 48. Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all--he is the greatest."

49. "Master," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us." 50. "Do not stop him," Jesus said, "for whoever is not against you is for you."

51. As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. 52. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; 53. but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.

54. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"

55. But Jesus turned and rebuked them, 56. and they went to another village.

57. As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

58. Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

59. He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

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

61. Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family."

62. Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."
