

Lesson 13 Luke 9:37-10:20 An Exorcism, A Prediction of Jesus' Death, The Mission of the Seventy

This lesson is the beginning of Luke's Travel Narrative. The rest of the Gospel reflects Jesus' journey towards his passion, death and resurrection. Note in verse 9:51 that the day has been set and Jesus is now "resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem". *Pick a favorite verse from this lesson to share with your group.*

1. Reflection: Read Luke 9:37-43, 9:49-50 as well as Ephesians 6:10-12 and Matthew 17:19.

Why do you suppose the disciples were unable to expel demons in the first story, but a non-disciple was successful in 9:49-50?

Luke 9:37-48³⁷ On the next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. ³⁸ There was a man in the crowd who cried out, "Teacher, I beg you, look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ For a spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams and it convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it releases him only with difficulty, wearing him out. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out but they could not." ⁴¹ Jesus said in reply, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long will I be with you and endure you? Bring your son here." ⁴² As he was coming forward, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion; but Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and returned him to his father. ⁴³ And all were astonished by the majesty of God. While they were all amazed at his every deed, he said to his disciples,

⁴⁴ "Pay attention to what I am telling you. The Son of Man is to be handed over to men." ⁴⁵ But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was hidden from them so that they should not understand it, and they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

⁴⁶ An argument arose among the disciples about which of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷ Jesus realized the intention of their hearts and took a child and placed it by his side ⁴⁸ and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. For the one who is least among all of you is the one who is the greatest."

Luke 9:49-50 ⁴⁹ Then John said in reply, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow in our company." ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Do not prevent him, for whoever is not against you is for you."

Ephesians 6:10-12. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Matthew 17:19-21¹⁹ Then the disciples approached Jesus in private and said, "Why could we not drive it out?" ²⁰ He said to them, "Because of your little faith. Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

2. Read Luke 9:41 above, and Deuteronomy 32:5, 20. The verses in Deuteronomy are the words of Moses in verse 5, and the voice of God in verse 20. What do these verses say about both the generation of Moses and the disciples of Jesus who failed to expel the demons?

Deuteronomy 32:5, 20 They are corrupt and not his children; to their shame they are a warped and crooked generation.⁶ Is this the way you repay the LORD, you foolish and unwise people? ²⁰ "I will hide my face from them," he said, "and see what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, children who are unfaithful."

3. Read Luke 9:43-48 and footnotes, and Mark 9:35. How are the disciples like children in the first story, (Luke 9:43-48)? Reflection: What child-like qualities can be helpful when it comes to accepting, loving others, and participating in the Christian mission?

Mark 9:35 ³⁵ Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

4. Read Luke 9:51-56 and footnotes, Luke 9:5, and 2 Kings 1:9-11. Why did the disciples think Jesus *would want* the Samaritans destroyed with fire?

Luke 9:5 ⁵ And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them."

Luke 9:51-56 When the days for his being taken up were fulfilled, he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem, ⁵² and he sent messengers ahead of him. On the way they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his reception there, ⁵³ but they would not welcome him because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?" ⁵⁵ Jesus turned and rebuked them, ⁵⁶ and they journeyed to another village.

2 Kings 1:9- Then the king sent a captain with his company of fifty men after Elijah. The prophet was seated on a hilltop when he found him. He said, "Man of God, the king commands you, 'Come down.'" ¹⁰ Elijah answered the captain, "Well, if I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty men.

5. Read Luke 9:57-62 and footnotes. Three potential disciples are depicted here. What does Jesus say to the first man and what is the meaning of Jesus' message to him? (See vs. 58). What does Jesus say to the second man? What does he say to the third man?

6. Read Luke 10:1-16 and footnotes, and Numbers 11:16-17. How did Jesus send out his disciples? What might be the basis for sending out 70 (or 72) at this time?

Numbers 11:16-17. Then the LORD said to Moses: Assemble for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be elders and authorities among the people, and bring them to the tent of meeting. When they are in place beside you, ¹⁷ I will come down and speak with you there. I will also take some of the spirit that is on you and will confer it on them, that they may share the burden of the people with you. You will then not have to bear it by yourself.

7. Read again Luke 10:9-16. What is the primary message that the disciples are to proclaim? What will happen to towns that reject the message of the disciples sent out by Jesus?

8. Read Luke 10:17-20 and footnotes. What do the disciples report about their mission? What is meant by Jesus' comment in 10:18?

Luke 10:17-20 The seventy[-two] returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name." ¹⁸ **Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky.** ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you the power 'to tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."