

Deeper Riches: Luke Bible Study
Week 8 - Luke 9:1-50

Before you begin...

“Who is this man, Jesus?” This is the question on everyone’s mind as we reach the climax of Jesus’ wandering ministry in Galilee. Who is this man who forgives sins (Luke 5:21, 7:49)? Who is this man who can command the wind and the waves (Luke 8:25)? Who is this man who has power and authority over demons and disease, and can even grant that authority to his followers (Luke 9:1, 9)?

Luke has given his readers many indications so far about who Jesus is: He is the Son of the Most High God. He is the promised King descended from David; the “Son of Man” promised to Daniel; and the great prophet promised through Moses. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. He is the Savior of the world, the Messiah, the Lord.

As readers, we have been privy to the truth from the beginning, but at this point in the story Jesus’ disciples have yet to understand his true identity. This week we will witness Jesus ask his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Some of them will even get to see a miraculous “transfiguration,” confirming that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Still, their minds cannot yet comprehend what Jesus was actually sent to do. The real work of the Messiah, his dying on the cross to pay for their sin, will remain a mystery to them until after it is completed.

This week, I encourage you to meditate on that question, “Who do you say that I am?” Of all the things you could learn from Luke, the most important one is this: Who is this Jesus?

Father God, as I come to this passage this week, open my eyes to see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Help me begin to understand who Jesus is. I long to really know you, Jesus. Teach me through your word. Amen.

Day 1 - Luke 9:1-17

1. **Read Luke 9:1-17.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** you have about the passage

If you prefer to take some time to write out more observations, try using the Observation Guides at DeeperRiches.com/Luke or write out your observations and thoughts in a journal.

2. How does Luke 9:1-2 represent a shift in Jesus’ ministry?

3. What might the apostles have been thinking and feeling as they received Jesus’ instructions in Luke 9:3-5?

4. What surprises you about Herod’s reaction to what was happening? (Luke 9:7-9)

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5. What do you learn from Jesus' example in Luke 9:10-11?
6. Why do you think Jesus said, "**You** give them something to eat," instead of "**Let's** give them something to eat"? (Luke 9:13)
7. Who does give the people something to eat? Read Luke 9:13-17 carefully and explain your answer.
8. In Luke 9:1-6, the apostles were completely dependent on God's provision for their food and lodging through the hospitality of strangers. How does this compare with what happened in Luke 9:12-17?
9. What lessons do you learn from these stories about doing the work of ministry?

Pray about what God has shown you.

Day 2 - Luke 9:18-27

1. **Read Luke 9:18-27**. Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** you have about the passage

If you prefer to take some time to write out more observations, try using the Observation Guides at DeeperRiches.com/Luke or write out your observations and thoughts in a journal.

2. Why do you think the crowds did not fully understand who Jesus was? (Luke 9:18-19) List some ways people get Jesus' identity wrong today.
3. In Luke 9:20, Peter confesses that Jesus is more than a prophet, he is "the Christ of God." "Christ" is not Jesus' last name, it is his title. Also translated, "Messiah," it literally means "Anointed One," and most often refers to the coming Deliverer, the offspring of David who will sit on the throne of Israel forever.
 - a. What might the disciples have imagined it would mean for them to be associated with the deliverer of Israel, this conquering King?

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- b. Today, when we call Jesus “the Christ,” we mean something more than Peter meant in Luke 9:20. What do Luke’s readers understand that the disciples did not (at this point in the story)?
 - c. With this in mind, why doesn’t Jesus want the disciples going around telling everyone that he is the Messiah?
4. Why would Jesus’ words in Luke 9:22 have come as a shock to the disciples?
- ❖ **Deep Dive:** *After his disciples confess that Jesus is the Christ, why do you think he continues to refer to himself as “the Son of Man” (see Daniel 7:13-14) instead of saying “the Christ must suffer...”? Compare with Luke 18:31-34 and 24:44-48.*
5. What is the significance of the word “must” in Luke 9:22?
6. How does the description of following Jesus in Luke 9:23-26 differ from what the disciples may have been expecting?
7. What does a person have to believe in order to unashamedly suffer persecution and death for Jesus? (Give your best answer before considering one or more of these cross references: Luke 6:22-23, Luke 12:4-5, Acts 5:41, Romans 8:17-18, and 2 Corinthians 4:8-17.)
8. Some Christians will be called upon to die for Christ, but not all will (Luke 9:27). What are some things you could lose besides your physical life? In what scenarios might you be tempted to be “ashamed” of Jesus in order to gain (or keep) these things? (Luke 9:24-26)
9. When Luke was writing this passage, Christians were being martyred for the gospel by the Roman emperor Nero. They would have understood exactly what this passage meant. Has the meaning changed for the church today? Explain.

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10. What could it look like for you personally to “deny yourself and take up your cross daily” to follow Jesus? (Luke 9:23)

Pray. Bring before the Lord all the thoughts and fears this passage has brought to your mind. **Praise** Jesus as the Christ. **Thank** him for his willingness to lay down his life for you. **Yield** to him the things of this world you are tempted to chase after daily, including comfort and ease.

Day 3 - Luke 9:28-36

1. **Read Luke 9:28-36.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** you have about the passage

2. According to Luke 9:28, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up the mountain to pray. What happened while Jesus was praying? (Luke 9:29-31)

3. On the mountain, Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about “his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:31)

- a. What does “his departure” refer to? What was going to happen in Jerusalem?
- b. Why do you think Luke uses the word “departure” (the greek word is “exodos”) instead of using a word like “death”?
- c. What is significant about the word “accomplish”?

❖ **Deep Dive:** *Why do you think Moses and Elijah were sent to talk with Jesus instead of ministering angels (22:43) or John the Baptist? How might this conversation with Moses and Elijah have helped Jesus as he prepared to head toward Jerusalem and the cross?*

4. What do you notice about Peter’s reaction to seeing these things (Luke 9:32-33)? Can you relate to his response?

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5. What more do Peter, James, and John learn about Jesus' identity from the voice in the cloud in Luke 9:35?
6. How would these events have helped them later on to suffer for Jesus' sake?
7. What is Luke teaching us about prayer here? (See Luke 9:18 and 28-29.) What other events in Luke 1-8 have been preceded by prayer? What difference should this make for your prayer life?

Praise Jesus for who you have seen him to be in this passage.

Day 4 - Luke 9:37-50

1. **Read Luke 9:37-50.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
 - **who** is in the passage
 - **what** is happening
 - **when** and **where**
 - **repeated words** or **ideas**
 - **questions** you have about the passage
 2. How did Jesus' experience up on the mountain (Luke 9:28-36) contrast with what he found at the bottom of the mountain? (Luke 9:37-40)
 3. What stands out to you about the Father's appeal to Jesus in Luke 9:38-40?
 4. The disciples were unable to drive out this demon because they lacked faith (Luke 9:41). When have you tried to do your God-given work without faith or with a twisted view of God or yourself? What was the result?
- ❖ **Deep Dive:** *How does this scene in Luke 9:37-43 symbolize a bigger story? (There are multiple answers.)*
5. Who will be left to help people like this father and son when Jesus is gone? What will they need in order to do this work?
 6. Why couldn't the disciples understand that Jesus was going to leave them to suffer and die? (Luke 9:44-45)

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7. Now that the disciples know they are following the Messiah, they are getting a little puffed up. What needed lessons do the disciples learn about the kingdom of God in Luke 9:46-50?
8. In what ways are you tempted to think too highly of yourself (Luke 9:46), or exclude others from the work of God (Luke 9:49-50) like the disciples did? What do you need to believe about Jesus in order to think rightly about these things?

Thank God for who he is based on these verses. **Confess** any unbelief, or the ways you have twisted the things of God to puff yourself up or exclude others. **Surrender** any pride or self-pity that comes from comparing yourself to others. **Pray** earnestly for those who are suffering in your midst.

Pulling it all together

1. What is one thing you think Luke really wants us to understand from these stories? **If you have time, reread all of Luke 9:1-50 before answering.**
2. Jesus' disciples come to the forefront of the story in this section. How does their role in Jesus' ministry start to change in this chapter? How does their understanding of Jesus' identity progress?
3. How does Luke use these stories to draw our attention to the apostles' readiness (or lack of readiness) to do the work of Jesus' ministry when he departs?
4. Who do **you** say that Jesus is, after reading this far in Luke?

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5. What is your most important personal take-away from Luke 9:1-50? (For example, was there a **key verse**, a **special insight**, an **example** to follow, a new **way to pray**, something that **challenged** or **convicted** you, etc...)

In what area of your life does this seem to matter most, and how?

One of the best ways to **apply** the Word of God to your own life is to really **pray** about what you have seen in the passage. Try this acronym: **P.R.A.Y.** - **Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield**. Use the prompts below to guide your prayers.

PRAISE. Thank and praise God for who he is and what he has done. Be specific.

REPENT. Confess your sin to God and turn from it. Agree with God about the things that need to change. Be specific.

ASK. What will you ask God to do based on what he has shown you? Be specific.

YIELD. What will you surrender to God? How can you trust and obey him in response to what he has shown you? Be specific.

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Small Group Discussion Guide:

1. Jesus' disciples come to the forefront of the story in this section. How does their role in Jesus' ministry start to change in this chapter? How does their understanding of Jesus' identity progress?
2. How does Luke use these stories to draw our attention to the apostles' readiness (or lack of readiness) to do the work of Jesus' ministry when he departs?
3. According to these passages, what does it mean to follow Jesus? What does it look like for you personally to deny yourself and take up your cross daily to follow Jesus?
4. When Luke was writing this passage, Christians were being martyred for the gospel by the Roman emperor Nero. They would have understood exactly what Luke 9:23-26 meant. Has the meaning changed for the church today?
5. What is Luke teaching us about prayer here? (See Luke 9:18 and 28-29.) What other events in Luke 1-8 have been preceded by prayer? What difference should this make for your prayer life?
6. What lessons did the disciples need to learn in Luke 9:37-50? Which of these lessons is most convicting for you personally?
7. Which part of Luke 9:1-50 most impacted your thinking about who Jesus is? Who do **you** say that Jesus is, after reading this far in Luke?

What is your big take-away from this passage or this discussion? Is there anything you need to confess or yield to God in response to this truth? What will you praise God for? What will you ask God to do?