

Deeper Riches: Luke Bible Study
Week 9 - Luke 9:51-10:42

Before you begin...

“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51 ESV) So begins this week’s text, and so begins the next major portion of Luke’s narrative: the journey to Jerusalem which comprises the next ten chapters. Up until this point, Luke has described Jesus’ ministry in Galilee, but now we see Jesus turn his face toward the place where “the Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.” (Luke 9:44) Everything that happens in the next ten chapters happens in the shadow of the cross.

Jesus’ departure is looming. He will be raised from the dead and ascend to heaven to be reunited with the Father. But in front of that future glory looms his suffering, which also “must” be accomplished (9:22,31). The implications of these things for his disciples are both wonderful and difficult. Once he is gone, they will be entrusted with his ministry as his “witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) They will share in his Kingdom and his glory, but they too will face suffering and be rejected by men.

As you read this next section of Luke (9:51-19:44), always keep in mind his “departure,” for Jesus has it in mind every time he speaks. Knowing this will change how we read these passages and parables. There is no Kingdom of God without the cross, and his followers must be willing to take up their cross daily and follow him. This week we begin to walk with Jesus to Jerusalem. May God give us eyes to see and ears to hear what it means to truly follow Jesus.

O God, as I come to your word again this week, will you please open up my mind to understand. Teach me who you really are and help me love the things you love. Show me what it means to really follow Jesus and live for you. Use this word to unite the Body of Christ, that we may be built up and walk together in the mission and authority you have given us.

Day 1 - Luke 9:51-62

1. **Read Luke 9:51-62.** 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. Which coming event at Jerusalem does Luke allude to in verse 9:51? What words, actions or events in last week’s passage (Luke 9:1-50) indicated that Jesus was already thinking about his departure?

3. What do you notice about Jesus’ attitude toward his journey to Jerusalem? (You might want to look up Luke 9:51 in multiple translations, like at biblehub.com.)

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Jews frequently travelled to Jerusalem for religious festivals (Luke 2:41). The most direct route from Galilee passed through the region of Samaria. Samaritans worshiped the God of Israel, but their religion was altered in many ways. For example, their version of the Ten Commandments told them to worship on Mount Gerizim instead of in Jerusalem. The Samaritans were known to heckle those traveling to Jerusalem for the religious festivals. In order to avoid passing through Samaria, many Jews took an eastern route, nearly doubling the length of their journey. (NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible p.1812)

4. What do you find significant about Jesus' choice to pass through Samaria? (Luke 9:52-53) How was he received?
5. In Luke 9:53-54, why did James and John want to call down fire from heaven on the Samaritan village? Did the people deserve it? Why do you think Jesus rebuked them and simply moved on to another village? (Consider Luke 9:5; 10:10-16)
- ❖ **Deep Dive:** During Jesus' transfiguration in Luke 9:28-36, he was visited by Moses and Elijah. This incident in the Samaritan village points to Elijah as well. Read **2 Kings 1:1-2:14**. Why might Luke want our minds on Elijah at this point in the story? What similarities do you see?
6. It is easy to say "I will follow you wherever you go," (9:57) but another thing to actually follow through. According to verse 58, what did Jesus' followers have to give up in order to follow him?
7. The people called to follow Jesus in verses 59 and 61 both called Jesus "Lord," and then said "But first let me..."
 - a. How would you characterize the things they want to do before they go follow Jesus? Are these reasonable requests?
 - b. What was the danger in waiting until after a funeral or going home to say goodbye to family?
8. What would the disciples have had to believe and desire in order to follow Jesus in a way that looked completely irresponsible to their families? (See Luke 18:28-30.)
9. According to Luke 9:60, what is the work that requires this kind of radical obedience? Where does this particular work rank in your own life in terms of priorities and desires?
10. To what extent do you think all Christians are called to follow Jesus in the radical way described in this passage? (See Luke 14:33.)

Pray about these things. **Declare** that Jesus is worthy of all you have to give. **Confess** any lack of desire for Jesus or his kingdom. **Ask** God to give you a radical love for Jesus and a desire to see his kingdom come. **Yield** all your comforts, responsibilities and relationships to God, and ask him to order your affections to be in line with his priorities.

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Day 2 - Luke 10:1-24 (Part 1)

1. **Read Luke 10:1-24.** 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. Look over Luke 10:1-9 and fill in the table below:

	What You Observe in the Text	A Principle for Ministry*
How they were sent (v.1)	Two by two	We should not be lone rangers in ministry. Find a partner.
Where they were sent (v.1)		
What they were to pray for (v.2)		
How they were to go (v.3)		
What they were to bring (v.4)		
The speed with which they were to go (v.4)		
Who they were to look for (v.5-6)		
Where they were to stay (v.7)		
What they were to eat (v.7)		
Three things they were to do in the house (v.8-9)		

* Do your best to come up with one way each of these instructions could be applied in missions or evangelism today. It's ok to make your best guess and check your answers later with your group.

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3. Jesus' strategy for outreach in Luke 10:1-9 takes advantage of the "hospitality culture" which is still alive and well in many parts of the world. In America, we value independence and self-sufficiency, so we rarely rely on the hospitality of others, especially strangers. Since it is so foreign to our culture, Jesus' strategy can be difficult for us to accept. When and where could you see yourself following (at least in part) the strategy outlined in Luke 10:1-9? What parts of this instruction would you find most difficult to obey? Why?
4. How does the idea of looking for a "person of peace" (someone who is open to spiritual conversations) change the way you think/feel about sharing the gospel? In which situations or relationships in your life does this seem to apply?
5. According to Luke 10:10-11, what were the disciples to do in places where there was no "person of peace"? (Consider Jesus' own example in Luke 9:52-55.)
6. According to Luke 10:16, how should we view rejection when we are trying to share the good news about Jesus?
7. Circle every instance of the words "follow" and "sent/send/sending" in Luke 9:57-10:3 and 10:16. What is the relationship between following Jesus and being sent by Jesus in this passage?
8. In Luke 10:2 Jesus told the disciples to pray for the Lord to send workers into his harvest. Visit a site like joshuaproject.net to choose a place or people group where the need for the gospel is great but the workers are few. **Set a daily reminder on your phone to pray for your "adopted nation."**

My Adopted Nation or Unreached People Group is: _____

9. How do Jesus' instructions to the seventy-two disciples in Luke 10:1-9 help you think differently about missions and outreach?

Pray through this passage right now. Ask Jesus to send you to the places he himself wants to go. Ask him to give you partners in ministry. Ask God to send workers to the places where the gospel is not known and the workers are few. Yield to God your assumptions, prejudices and fears and ask him to give you opportunities to obey this word.

Day 3 - Luke 10:1-24 (Part 2)

1. **Read Luke 10:1-24 again.** What stood out to you this time that you didn't notice before?
 2. Jesus mentioned Sodom in Luke 10:12. What happened to Sodom? (See Genesis 18:16-19:29, especially Genesis 19:24-25.) What does this mean for the towns that reject Jesus' disciples?
 3. Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum were the cities where Jesus had preached most frequently and performed many miracles, but now he is leaving these cities and will not return.
 - a. What did Jesus condemn these cities for not doing in Luke 10:13?
 - b. How did the people of Capernaum respond to Jesus' miracles? (See Luke 4:36, 5:26, and 8:40.)
 - c. What is the difference between being amazed and repenting? What does this tell you about what it really means to accept or reject Jesus?
 - d. Why would God's punishment for the Israelite cities (Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum) be worse than the punishment for the Gentile cities (Tyre and Sidon), which were known for their worldly wealth and wickedness? (Luke 10:13)
 4. What does Jesus' seem to be saying about cities and judgment in Luke 10:10-15? How does this fit with (or challenge) your understanding of God?
 5. When the seventy-two returned, they rejoiced that even the demons submitted to them in Jesus' name (Luke 10:17).
 - a. What did we learn in Luke 4:5-6 about Satan's authority?
 - b. How does Satan's authority compare to that of Jesus' disciples? (See Luke 10:19.)
 - c. What was the context in which the disciples were given this authority and protection? (See Luke 10:1-9)
 - d. Compare verses 18 and 20. What difference does Jesus highlight between Satan and the disciples? How might this relate to their authority?
- ❖ **Deep Dive:** *In Matthew 16:18, Jesus told his disciples that on the basis of their testimony he would build his church and "the gates of hell will not prevail against it." If the gates that will not prevail belong to Satan, who is doing the attacking? How? How does that relate to Luke 10:1-24, and the stories in the book of Acts? How does this help you think about the role of the church in the world today?*

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6. In Luke 10:21 Jesus was “filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit” (NLT) and praised the Father.
 - a. What are “these things” the Father hid from the wise and intelligent but revealed to the disciples? (Consider the verses before and after verse 21.)
 - b. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Why does it please God to hide the gospel from people the world considers wise and intelligent and reveal it to people the world would call simple or ignorant?
7. According to Luke 10:22, what is the only way to know God?
8. Based on Luke 10:21-22, what attitude should you have toward those in your life who have heard the gospel but don't yet “get it”? What attitude should you have regarding your own salvation?
9. What are the things the disciples were seeing and hearing that prophets and kings wanted to see but did not see (Luke 10:23-24)? (See also 1 Peter 1:10-12.)
10. There is a lot of rejoicing in verses 17-24. Which truths in these verses bring you the most joy?

Praise God for these glorious realities. **Ask** for his help in the things you don't yet understand.

Day 4 - Luke 10:25-42

1. **Read Luke 10:25-42.** 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. Why might the lawyer have wanted to “test” Jesus (Luke 10:25)? What would he have to gain?
3. Jesus pointed the expert in the Law back to the Law to answer his own question about eternal life. Copy the lawyer's response from Luke 10:27 here:
4. How are you doing at obeying this commandment (Luke 10:27)?

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5. If your eternal life were dependent on your own ability to perfectly love God and your neighbor, what would that mean for you?

❖ **Deep Dive:** *Matthew, Mark and Luke each include a version of the Greatest Commandment (Luke 10:27) in their gospels. Read Matthew 22:34-40 and Mark 12:28-34. What does Luke seem to be emphasizing that is different from Mark and Matthew?*

6. The lawyer in Luke 10:26-37 sought to “**justify**” himself, or declare himself righteous and deserving of eternal life. What are some ways people try to justify themselves apart from faith in Jesus Christ? What does Galatians 2:16 have to say about this? (Consider also Romans 3:20-26.)

7. What would Jesus’ listeners have found surprising, challenging, or even offensive about his parable in Luke 10:30-37?

8. What point was Jesus making by telling this parable in answer to the question, “Who is my neighbor?”

9. Who is God challenging you to view as your “neighbor”? What is one way you could show mercy to this neighbor?

10. Read Luke 10:38-42. Mary and Martha were both “persons of peace” toward Jesus, but they seemed to have different responses to him coming into their home. What did their actions reveal about their priorities?

11. What lessons can you take for your own life from the examples of Mary, Martha and Jesus? List everything you can think of from Luke 10:38-42.

Praise God for his glorious plan to provide salvation through faith in Jesus Christ apart from the Law. **Confess** the ways you have neglected to love God or your neighbor. **Ask** for help in loving the “neighbors” he brought to mind. **Yield** to God anything that is getting in the way of you sitting at his feet.

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 9:51-10:42 before answering.**
2. Jesus heads to Jerusalem in Luke 9:51 with his departure on his mind. What will his departure mean for his disciples? (See Acts 1:8.) How did Jesus begin preparing his disciples for his departure in chapters 9 and 10?
3. How do these passages help you think about what it really means to follow Jesus?
4. Complete one or more of the following sentences based on what God showed you in this week's study:
 - Something this passage shows about **The Kingdom of God** is...
 - One thing this passage makes clear about **Salvation** is...
 - What I saw about **Rejection** is...
 - Jesus is the **Fulfillment** of...
5. What is your most important personal take-away from this chapter? (*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.

Small Group Discussion Guide:

1. Jesus headed to Jerusalem in Luke 9:51 with his departure on his mind. What is his attitude about the journey? What will his departure mean for his disciples? (See Acts 1:8.) How did Jesus begin preparing his disciples for his departure in chapters 9 and 10?
2. What did you learn about the cost of following Jesus in Luke 9:57-62? What would the disciples have had to believe and desire in order to follow Jesus in this way? To what extent do you think all Christians are called to follow Jesus in the radical way described in this passage?
3. What stands out to you about Jesus' instructions to his disciples in Luke 10:1-9? How do his instructions help you think differently about missions and outreach?
4. How does Luke 10:21-22 help you think about those in your life who have heard the gospel but don't yet "get it"? What attitude should you have regarding your own salvation based on these verses?
5. There is a lot of rejoicing in verses 17-24. Which truths in these verses bring you the most joy?
6. How are you doing at obeying the commandment in Luke 10:27? If your eternal life were dependent on your own ability to perfectly love God and your neighbor, what would that mean for you?
7. The lawyer in Luke 10:26-37 sought to "**justify**" himself, or declare himself righteous and deserving of eternal life. What are some ways people try to justify themselves apart from faith in Jesus Christ? What does Galatians 2:16 have to say about this?
8. What would Jesus' listeners have found surprising, challenging, or even offensive about his parable in Luke 10:30-37? What point do you think Jesus was making? Who is God challenging you to view as your "neighbor"?
9. How did Mary and Martha's priorities differ when Jesus entered their home? What lessons can you take for your own life from the examples of Mary, Martha and Jesus in Luke 10:38-42?

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?