

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

Day 1- Read Luke 9

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: *Luke 9:23-24 If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.*

Day 2- Luke 9:1-17

1. How did casting out demons and healing disease authenticate their message of the good news of the kingdom of God?

-Why do you think God chose this way of showing his power?

2. According to verse 11, how did Jesus respond to the crowds who were following him and his disciples as they tried to get away and rest?

3. Faced with the pressing problem of thousands of hungry people, what kind of wrong thinking did the disciples display in verse 12?

-In your life how are you tempted to forget who God is and start bossing him around?

4. By telling them to feed the people themselves in verse 13, what is Jesus daring them to do?

5. What do you think is significant about the fact that there were **12** baskets left over in verse 17?

Scholar's Note: *Satisfied* translates a form of the verb *chortazō*, which was originally used to describe fattening animals, who gorged themselves until they could eat no more (it is so used in Rev. 19: 21). The people ate their fill until they were satiated.¹

6. How do you see the character of God revealed in Jesus in this miracle in verses 10-17?

Day 3- Luke 9:18-27

7. Verse 21 is the first time we hear precisely what the disciples believe about Jesus. In spite of the confusion of the crowds and Herod, who did Peter say Jesus was?

Scholar's Note: "*Christ* is the Greek rendering of the Hebrew title *Messiah* and means *Anointed One*."²

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

Matthew 16:15-17 "He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.'"

-How did Peter know exactly who Jesus was?

-What are the implications of this?

8. In verse 22, Jesus for the first time explicitly explains to the disciples what must happen to God's Anointed One. How does verse 22 give you insight as to why Jesus strictly warned them not to tell anyone he was Messiah?
9. In verse 23 Jesus proclaims if you are to follow him you must deny yourself and take up your cross daily. If the cross symbolizes submission, suffering and sacrifice, why must you deny yourself to take it up? What does it mean to deny yourself? How is denying yourself part of what suffering is?

For Discussion: What is the significance of *take up* in Jesus' instruction to "take up your cross"?

Picture and Ponder: "What are our crosses? They are not simply trials or hardships. A cross results from specifically walking in Christ's steps, embracing his life. It comes from bearing disdain because we are following the narrow way of Jesus Christ...Our crosses come from and are proportionate to our dedication to Christ. Difficulties do not indicate cross bearing, though difficulties for Christ's sake do."³

10. "*Whoever would save his life will lose it*" in verse 24, corresponds with "*gaining the world but losing himself*" in verse 25. How do people try to save their lives by gaining the world and why does this lead to death?



Jesus equates denying ourselves to losing our life. To deny yourself is to die to yourself. When we follow Jesus, our own agendas, desires, and rights no longer drive us, they are all subordinate to Jesus. Paul puts it this way- we are no longer our own, because we have been bought with a price. (1 Cor. 6:20) and he says that we have been crucified with Jesus and no longer live, but Jesus lives in us (Gal. 2:20).

In the case of the disciples, all except one actually lost their physical lives for Jesus. And still today many Christians around the world die because of their faith in Jesus. God may not have called us to give up our physical lives right now, but he does call us to die each day to our pride, selfishness, and inordinate loves.

- ❖ What desires do you routinely need to say no to out of obedience to Jesus, and for the glory of God?
- ❖ What priorities of your own do you need to adjust in order to put God's priorities first? (time, money, service)
- ❖ What rights do you need to give up in order to show God's love to others?
- ❖ If the cross symbolizes submission, suffering and sacrifice, how is that part of your life as a Christian? If it's not part of your life, in what ways can you be more intentional and bold in living out the life of Jesus?

Day 4- Luke 9:28-36

11. As Jesus was up on the mountain praying, how was the veil of his humanity pulled back and his deity revealed? (vs.29, 32)

Scholar's Note: The Greek word for dazzling means bright as a flash of lightning.

12. Moses and Elijah were there in their glorified bodies talking with Jesus. The Greek tense indicates this was an extended conversation.⁴ What was the topic they were discussing according to verse 31?

-What do you imagine they might have been saying?

Picture and Ponder: "Moses and Elijah, the chief representatives of the Law and the Prophets, were carrying on a conversation with Jesus, who himself said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them' (Mat. 5:17) They were talking with the fulfillment of everything their lives represented!"⁵

13. How does Luke make it clear in verse 33 that what Peter said was highly inappropriate?

Scholar's Note: "Peter's proposal of three, presumably equal, shelters may have implied a leveling perspective, putting Jesus on a par with the others. Peter wanted to prolong the stay of the heavenly visitors because he still failed to grasp the significance of the passion prediction of v.22 and its confirmation in v.31."⁶

14. Peter thinks this scene that he was privileged to witness is the beginning of God's kingdom being set up on earth. What does God say in verse 35 to correct Peter's misguided human perspective?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

John 1:14 "We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father."

2 Peter 1:16-18 "For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,' we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain."

-How did this moment on the mountain with Jesus impact John and Peter?

Day 5- Luke 9:37-62

15. In verse 41 Jesus said that the disciples were unable to cast out the demon because they were part of a faithless and twisted generation. To be faithless is to be *unbelieving, without trust in God*, and to be twisted is to *turn aside from the right path*. How do you think this played a part in their failure to cast out the demon; where did they go wrong?

Picture and Ponder: "Frederick Godet, the French commentator, has suggested that Jesus' exasperated response may have been partially due to his wonderful night of prayer and communion on the mount of transfiguration: 'He feels himself a stranger in the midst of unbelief . . . The holy enjoyment of the night before, as it were, made him homesick.'"7

16. Verse 43 says that the people were astonished at the majesty of God. In what ways was the majesty of God displayed in Jesus in verses 37-43?



In relating the same incident, Mark in his gospel (9:22-24), tells us that the boy's father said, "*if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.*" And Jesus said to him, "*If you can!*" All things are possible for one who believes. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "*I believe; help my unbelief!*"

This desperate father knew exactly where to turn to as he felt the gnawing of unbelief in his heart. It was a good lesson for the disciples. They couldn't cast this demon out because they didn't believe, but instead of praying and relying on God, they just tried harder, relying on themselves. And it was futile.

Romans 14:23b says, "Whatever is not from faith is sin." (NET) Speaking about that verse, John Piper comments, "When human conduct is not rooted in reliance on God, it is part of the very rebellion that ruins the world." We rebel against God and insult his holiness when we don't believe him and instead depend on ourselves. Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6a)

Jesus said that faith of a mustard seed is enough to move a mountain. Isn't it good to know that he accepts even our small, imperfect faith and when we feel the doubt and unbelief rise up in our hearts he wants us to turn to him and depend on him to supply what we so desperately lack.

- ❖ Like the father who believed but was aware of his struggle with unbelief, how are you aware of ways unbelief plays a part in your faith walk?

- ❖ How is depending on yourself a form of unbelief?

17. For the second time Jesus prepares the disciples for where his life is headed. He even stresses to them to "let these words sink into your ears." What 3 facts are we given in verse 45 about how they perceived and reacted to what Jesus said?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

Luke 24:6-8 "He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise. And they remembered his words."

-In light of these verses why do you think Jesus wanted them to let his words sink in, yet the meaning of what he said was concealed from them at that time?

18. As Jesus is preparing the disciples for his suffering and death, they are still envisioning an earthly kingdom coming soon where they will be Jesus' right hand men. What sinful attitudes did the disciples display in verses 46-50?

-How do these same attitudes display themselves in your life?

19. How did Jesus' life exemplify "whoever is least among you is great" in verse 48?

Scholar's Note: Verse 51 tells us Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem". His ministry in Galilee is now finished. Two and a half years have passed since Jesus began his ministry. From this point to chapter 19 and the Triumphal Entry, Jesus is on the road, traveling to Jerusalem to fulfill God's purpose for his life.

20. In verses 57-62 Jesus is testing his would be followers to show them how they must treasure Jesus above all else if they would follow him. Put in your own words the things that Jesus names in these verses that compete in our hearts with affection for him.



It is hard to follow Jesus. The good news is he doesn't send us out on our own to do his work, we are with him and he is with us. The other good news is following Jesus brings life! Abundant life now and forever.

- ❖ Spend some time in prayer asking God to show you where your affections are out of order, where and how your family, security, comfort, money, time and old life may mean more to you than Jesus does. Ask God to cause your heart to love him more than anything else.

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 12286-12288). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

² Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015),p. 347

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Expositor's Commentary

⁷ Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015),p. 365

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