

## LUKE Lesson 23

### The Conclusion of the Lord's ministry in Galilee (Luke 9:1-50)

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In this chapter, we see Jesus shifting his training methods. In the first eight chapters, He taught the disciples and showed them how to do the work of God. In chapter nine, He begins to send them out for some hands-on practical experience in the work. He is preparing them for His soon departure.

#### THREE CONFESSIONS THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST

1. Peter's confession (vs 20). In the disciples' minds, the Christ was supposed to set up a kingdom. Jesus tried to set them straight by introducing them to the suffering Savior (vs 22, 44), but they didn't understand (vs 45)—because no Old Testament saint was ever *"looking forward to the cross."*
2. God the Father said, "This is my beloved Son" (vs 35). Again, Jesus' death is in the context (vs 31).
3. The unclean spirits (vs 42) knew Jesus was the Son of God (Luke 8:29) when He rebuked them. Jesus again prepares the disciples for his appointed death (vs 44). The cross must come before the crown.

"Prosperity Gospel" preachers are ruining Christian's lives by promising them riches. People quickly get discouraged when they find out there is a cross to bear rather than a bag of money.

#### VERSE-BY-VERSE (partial)

- 1-2** This is the first time Jesus sends out the disciples "to preach the kingdom of God." They are not to take anything with them. They need to learn that the Lord will meet their every need. He sent them out and enabled them to do some amazing things. Certainly, they could trust that He'll also equip them and provide for their needs.
- Vs 4** Don't stay where you're not welcome. This rule still applies today when witnessing.
- Vs 6** They preached the gospel (first priority, eternal results) and healed people (secondary, temporary results).
- 7-9** Herod was "perplexed" (puzzled, distracted, in suspense) when he heard of all that was done by Jesus. Perhaps he was worried that it was time to pay the consequences for killing John the Baptist. Herod heard John preach the word of God. That truth is not easy to forget.
- Vs 10** When the disciples finished their mission, they told Jesus all that they had done. This is a good lesson for the Christian. Go serve the Lord, then come back and tell Him about it. Don't file it and forget it.
- 11-17** People heard about what was going on and a multitude started following Jesus. This caused some concern among the disciples. Trying to meet the needs of a bunch of people can be burdensome if you forget that **"The things which are impossible with men are possible with God"** (Lk 18:27). It was true that the disciples could not feed the multitude, but Jesus told them **"Give ye them to eat."** He provided the food, the disciples served it. Trust God to meet the needs and much can be accomplished.

Christian, you may say, *"I can't do it,"* but if God told you to do it, trust Him to enable you to *"give ye them to eat."* If you'll be faithful to do that, you'll be surprised to find out that the Lord has a basket-full for you when you get through. You will soon learn that obeying the Lord is quite rewarding.

- 18-22** The disciples knew that Jesus was “The Christ of God” (vs 20), but this information was reserved for those who would learn it from the Holy Spirit.
- Vs 23** You must deny yourself, or else you will NOT choose to take up your cross. A selfish person doesn’t want to help another person. Denying yourself involves dying daily (1 Cor 15:31) and mortifying the flesh (Rom 8:13, Col 3:5) and reckoning yourself to be dead unto sin (Rom 6:11). You’ve got to wake up every day and put off the “old man” (Eph 4:22, Col 3:9, Rom 6:6) and count those “old things” to be “passed away” (2 Cor 5:17). You’ve got to consciously choose to live for God (Joshua 24:15, 1 Kings 18:21, John 6:66-67, Acts 11:23, Matthew 6:24).
- 24-26** You can do everything possible to save your life, prolong your days, and squeeze the most out of this earthly life, but in the end, you will die (Psalm 90:10). If your life goals are to acquire money and earthly possessions, you may lose yourself in those ambitions (Dan 4:30-33) or end up in Hell with nothing but torment (Luke 16:23). If you’re trying to fit into this world, it’s because you’re ashamed of the Lord Jesus (vs 26, Mark 8:38, Rom 1:16).
- 27-36** The transfiguration of the Lord, appearing in all His glory. Peter, James, and John were eyewitnesses of this event; they heard God the Father say, “**This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased**” (Mt 17:5, 2 Pet 1:17), but Peter tells us that the written word of God is more sure than what he saw and heard (2 Peter 1:16-20).
- 37-45** The spirit-possessed son reveals some of the traits to watch for in someone who is being controlled by an evil spirit. The evil spirit takes control him (vs 39), causes him to cry out, tears and bruises him, and throws him down (vs 42). People being “*slain in the spirit*” are subjecting themselves to an evil spirit. If you are being led by the Holy Spirit, you will voluntarily cast yourself face-down at Jesus’ feet.
- Jesus rebuked the whole group for not having enough faith to defeat the Devil (vs 41). Then He delivered the son from the devil by “**the mighty power of God**” (vs 43). The people recognized His deity, but Jesus again reminds them that He came to die (vs 44).
- They didn’t understand what Jesus was saying (vs 45) because He had demonstrated such mighty power, that it seemed impossible that any man could cause him any harm.
- 46-48** Who will be the greatest? He that is least. The Bible greatly emphasizes the importance of humility (1 Pet 5:5), not thinking too highly of yourself (Rom 12:3), esteeming others as better than you (Phil 2:3), and the dangers of pride (Prov 16:18).
- 49-50** Others were doing the Lord’s work in His name. We tend to naturally object to other denominations’ methods and doctrines, but we ought to be glad when we find out that somebody is preaching the gospel and leading souls to Christ, no matter what church they come from (Philippians 1:15-18).