

## LUKE Lesson 24

### Heading Toward the Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-62)

16 November 2018

*This section of the scriptures ends the Galilean ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, as He now begins making His way toward Jerusalem and the cross.*

**Vs 51** Isaiah 50:7 and context tells us what it means, **“He steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem.”**

- He went fully aware of all the abuse, shame, and pain He would endure at the hands of men.
- He went determined (like a flint) to accomplish what He came to do; die on the cross for the sins of the world; no turning back; no turning aside.
- He went to defeat your adversary, Satan himself.

**As believers, we must follow the Lord’s example:**

- We must deny ourselves (lay down our lives), take up our cross daily, and follow Him (vs 23).
- We must set our face like a flint toward the Judgment Seat and press toward that mark (Php 3:14).
  - Don’t look to the left (the world). Don’t look to the right (the flesh). Don’t look back (the old life). Look straight on!

**Jesus’ progress toward Jerusalem:**

Luke 13:22 He went through cities and villages **“journeying toward Jerusalem.”**

Luke 17:11 passing through Samaria and Galilee, **“he went to Jerusalem.”**

Luke 18:31 **“We go up to Jerusalem”** where all shall be fulfilled concerning the Son of man.

Luke 19:11 **“He was nigh to Jerusalem.”**

Luke 19:28 He’s **“ascending up to Jerusalem.”**

Luke 19:37 He’s descending the Mount of Olives.

We need to have the same kind of resolve in our Christian lives; no looking back, not letting temptations or trials distract us from our goal; to live a life that will bring honor and glory to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Don’t give the Devil anything to work with that he could use to tempt you. If you’re not interested in sinful things, the Devil can’t use those things to lure you and capture you (Jn 14:30, 1 Jn 3:5-8).

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**Vs 52** They **“entered into a village of the Samaritans.”** Who are the Samaritans and why did the Jews despise them (Jn 4:9)?

See **2 Kings 17:26-33**. These were people who claimed to *“know the Lord”* and *“Serve the Lord,”* but since they believed in *“Freedom of religion,”* they did not reserve their worship to the true God, and Him alone. Their religion, customs, and traditions were more important than God.

**Vs 53** “**They did not receive him!**” (Compare to Jn 1:12). People who love their religion more than they love God will not receive Jesus Christ.

**54-56** James and John would have been content to see the Lord destroy those Samaritans. But the Lord Jesus didn’t come to condemn the world (Jn 3:17); He is not willing that any should perish (2 Pet 3:9).

Make sure that your preaching is not strictly “*hellfire, damnation, and condemnation.*” You must tell people how to escape that judgment. You’ve got to tell them about the Lord Jesus Christ.

The apostles learned their lesson and later were found ministering unto the Samaritans (Acts 8:14-25). Likewise, we must continue to grow in grace and longsuffering as we serve the Lord (2 Pet 3:18).

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### **Ways in which men follow Jesus (Vss 57-62)**

- 1. The First man** wanted to follow Jesus by the strength of his own will (vs 57). Men can’t rely on this because though the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak (Mt 26:41).
  - a. Jesus pointed out to this man that no man is capable of following Him unless they follow His example and put away anything that would take their attention away from their goal.
  - b. Jesus was not seeking some sort of sympathy by mentioning that He had no earthly home. He was showing how it freed Him to do His Father’s will unencumbered. He had no cares of this world to hold Him back.
  - c. If you have too much invested in worldly possessions it will hinder you from following Jesus Christ like you want to.
- 2. The Second man** wanted to follow the Lord, but he wanted his own interests to come first. He said, “Suffer ME FIRST.” Jesus must come first (Mt 10:37).
  - a. Jesus told him to “**go...and preach the kingdom of God.**” Get your priorities right. People who are still alive are going to die and go to Hell if you don’t tell them about Jesus right now.
    - i. Simon Peter and Andrew followed Christ “straightway” (without delay) (Mt 4:18-20).
    - ii. James and John followed Jesus “immediately” (Mt. 4:21-22).
      1. These men laid down their lives (their livelihood, their families, etc.) to follow Jesus.
- 3. The Third man** wanted to turn back and tie up some loose ends before he could follow Jesus.
  - a. Jesus told him, once you start going forward, you can’t look back or you’ll become unfit for the kingdom of God.
  - b. Jesus looked straight ahead to the cross “**for the joy that was set before him**” (Heb 12:2). He’s looking for followers who won’t look back to their old life and be hindered by their past and who won’t turn aside and get off track.

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*A true Christian is one who is “**Like Christ.**”*

*Unfortunately, there are far more saved people than there are Christians.*