

'Luke' - Extra Teaching Points #14

Luke 9:1-27 (NASB95)

Luke 9:1-6

"And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. ² And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing. ³ And He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, neither a staff, nor a bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not even have two tunics apiece. ⁴ "Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that city. ⁵ "And as for those who do not receive you, as you go out from that city, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." ⁶ Departing, they began going throughout the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere."

Matt 10 includes a lot more information about Jesus' instruction to His 12 disciples.

- However, some of the instructions in Matt 10 were not given on the same occasion as this.
 - Some of the instructions seem to come from the Olivet Discourse (Mark 13; Matt 24; Luke 21).
- Matthew wrote primarily to Jews; Jewish writings commonly flowed along a topical line rather than a chronological one.

Vs. 3 Jesus tells them not to take anything with them as they went out to preach the gospel.

- These are not general instructions to those preaching the gospel from then on; in fact Jesus will tell them to do it differently in Luke 22:35.

Q: Why did Jesus send them out with no way to provide for themselves, only to later tell them to take provisions as they went?

- I think Jesus wanted them to understand they were working for Him, not people.
 - Matt 10:5-10 Jesus told them to give freely; to not charge anyone for the gospel or the good works they were doing.
 - In Matt 10:10 Jesus told them, "... *the worker is worthy of his support.*"
 - They were to understand that they were working for Jesus, and He would support them.
 - Jesus moved people to give His workers what they needed—they didn't have to charge anyone.
- I think He wanted them to experience God providing for their needs, so they could learn how to depend on God to take care of them... instead of relying on people or money.
 - Luke 22:35-36 *"And He said to them, "When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, **you did not lack anything, did you?"** They said, "No, nothing." ³⁶ And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one."*
 - When they had learned how to trust God to provide for them, Jesus told them it was okay to take along some provisions.

Q: What does this mean for people who get paid to work in full time ministry? Is that wrong?

- There is a difference between being supported by a church – in order to serve God full time – and being salaried.
 - **Being salaried** implies that you work for the organization.
 - It's like any other job—"I'll do this if you pay me that... if you won't pay me that, I won't do this."
 - **Being supported** by a church means you work for God—there is no "if" or condition that the church must meet before you will do the work.
- A lot of times the difference between these two is seen in the paid minister's attitude toward his/her support.
 - When a minister avoids teaching something they believe is true – in order to keep their paycheck – they are looking to a church for a salary... rather than trusting God for their support.
 - When a minister refuses to serve unless he feels he is being fairly compensated, he is looking to a church for a salary... rather than trusting God for his support.

Luke 9:7-9

*“Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was happening; and he was greatly perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead, ⁸ and by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen again. ⁹ Herod said, “I myself had John beheaded; but who is this man about whom I hear such things?” **And he kept trying to see Him.**”*

- Only Luke records that Herod actually did get to see Jesus ([Luke 23:8](#)) after His arrest.
 - Herod wanted to see Jesus perform a miracle, but Jesus didn't accommodate Him.

Luke 9:10-11

*“When the apostles returned, they gave an account to Him of all that they had done. Taking them with Him, He withdrew by Himself to a city called Bethsaida. ¹¹ But the crowds were aware of this and followed Him; **and welcoming them, He began speaking to them about the kingdom of God and curing those who had need of healing.**”*

- Jesus had sent the 12 out to preach the Kingdom and perform healings. When they returned, Jesus tried to get away from people so they could have a break and relax a little.
- The NKJV says that Jesus “*took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.*”
 - It was probably not Bethsaida proper, but the uninhabited area around Bethsaida.
- **Even though Jesus was trying to get some downtime for Himself and His disciples, He did not turn away those who came looking for Him.**
 - Q: Do you get downtime? If you do, do you turn away people looking for the Kingdom if you are on vacation?

Luke 9:12-17

*“Now the day was ending, and the twelve came and said to Him, “Send the crowd away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place.” ¹³ But He said to them, “**You give them something to eat!**” And they said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless perhaps we go and buy food for all these people.” ¹⁴ (For there were about five thousand men.) And He said to His disciples, “**Have them sit down to eat in groups of about fifty each.**” ¹⁵ They did so, and had them all sit down. ¹⁶ Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, **He blessed them, and broke them, and kept giving them to the disciples to set before the people.** ¹⁷ And they all ate and were satisfied; and the broken pieces which they had left over were picked up, twelve baskets full.”*

[Matt 14:13-21](#), [Mark 6:30-44](#) & [John 6:1-14](#) also record this miracle, and give even more details.

- From John we learn that Jesus asked Phillip (who lived in the area) where He could send someone to get some bread to feed all the people.
 - Jesus was testing Phillip... probably because He already knew what He was about to do.
- Phillip said it would take more than 200 denarii (a denarii is a day's wage) to give everyone just a little bread.
 - There were about 5000 men there.

Jesus provided the food, but He gave it to His disciples to give to the people.

- This is still how Jesus operates. He provides the resources people need, but gives them to His disciples to distribute.
 - Jesus gives us spiritual and physical resources.
- **Q: Are you using what Jesus gave you to meet people's needs?**

Extra Info on Chronology:

Luke records this in such a way that it seems like this happened at the same time that Jesus fed the 5000; but some other things happened between feeding the 5000, and this question.

- [John 6:15](#) tells us Jesus went off to be alone, because He perceived the people's intention to make Him King.
- [John 6:16-21](#) tells us the disciples got in a boat, and headed to Capernaum at evening; and Jesus walked on the water to catch up to them.
- [John 6:22-71](#) tells us the crowds followed Him to Capernaum, and He ran most of them off with the teaching on the bread of life.
 - It seems like maybe only the 12 stayed with Him ([John 6:67](#)).
 - This is sometimes referred to as the collapse of the Galilean campaign.

It was after all these things happened that Jesus took the 12 to Caesarea Philippi; apparently to finally get the downtime He was looking for. ([Matthew 16:13](#))

[Luke 9:18-22](#)

*"And it happened that while He was praying alone, the disciples were with Him, and He questioned them, saying, **'Who do the people say that I am?'**" ¹⁹ They answered and said, "John the Baptist, and others say Elijah; but others, that one of the prophets of old has risen again." ²⁰ And He said to them, **"But who do you say that I am?"** And Peter answered and said, **"The Christ of God."** ²¹ But He warned them and instructed them not to tell this to anyone, ²² saying, **"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day."***

Q: What does the disciple's answer to Jesus tell us?

- [Luke 9:7-8](#) records the same three popular thoughts about who Jesus was.
- The Jews were really anticipating the Messiah at this time; they even wondered if John the Baptist was the Messiah ([Luke 3:15](#)). Yet no one at this time was thinking *Jesus* was the Messiah.
- **People had probably speculated that Jesus could be the Messiah in the beginning of His ministry, but the crowds had probably become disillusioned with Jesus.**

Q: Why would Jesus tell the disciples to let people go on believing He was John, Elijah, or one of the prophets?

- The people expected the Messiah would lead a revolt against Rome.
- To call yourself the Messiah, was to invite instant reprisals from the Romans.
 - There were many Jews who had claimed to be the Messiah before Jesus.
 - Many of them were crucified because they stirred up riots and rebellions against Rome.
- It is interesting that the Romans never did fear Jesus the way they feared others who claimed to be Messiah.
 - Even when the Jews arrested Jesus and brought Him to the Romans for execution saying He had claimed to be the King of the Jews, Pilot wasn't worried about Jesus, and only crucified Him because of political pressure.
 - It could be because Pilot was aware of Jesus and His teachings before Jesus was arrested and brought to him.
 - Jesus wasn't stirring up rebellion; rather He was teaching, "love your enemies" and "go the extra mile."

[Vs. 22](#) This is the first of 3 times Jesus told the disciples what was going to happen to Him.

- When it actually happened, they were caught by surprise; probably because they thought He was speaking figuratively... not literally.

More Info on Caesarea Philippi:

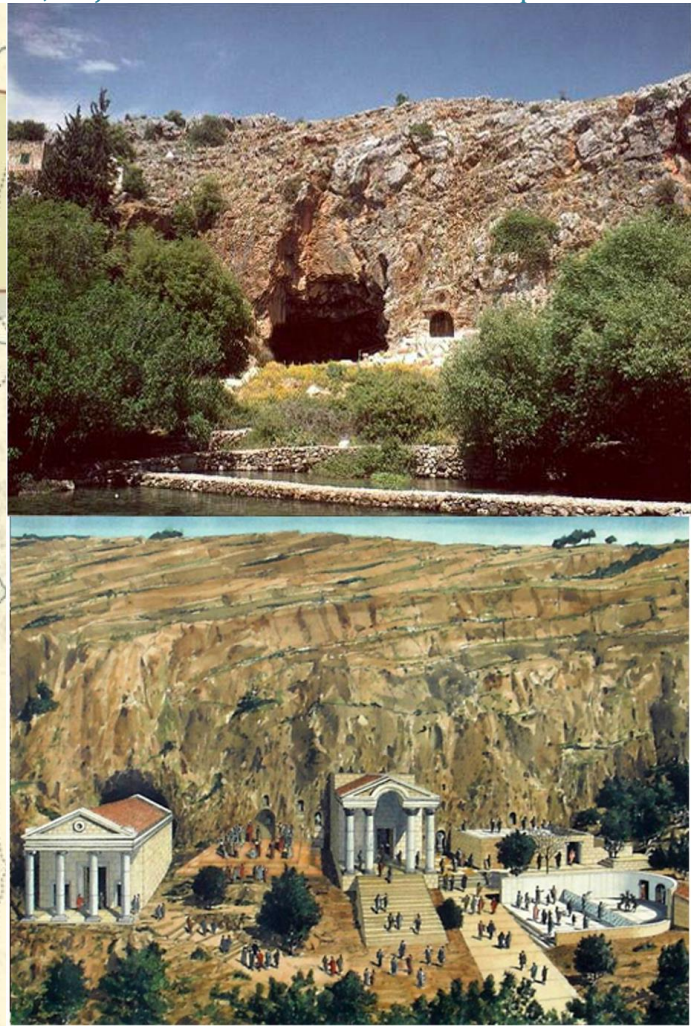
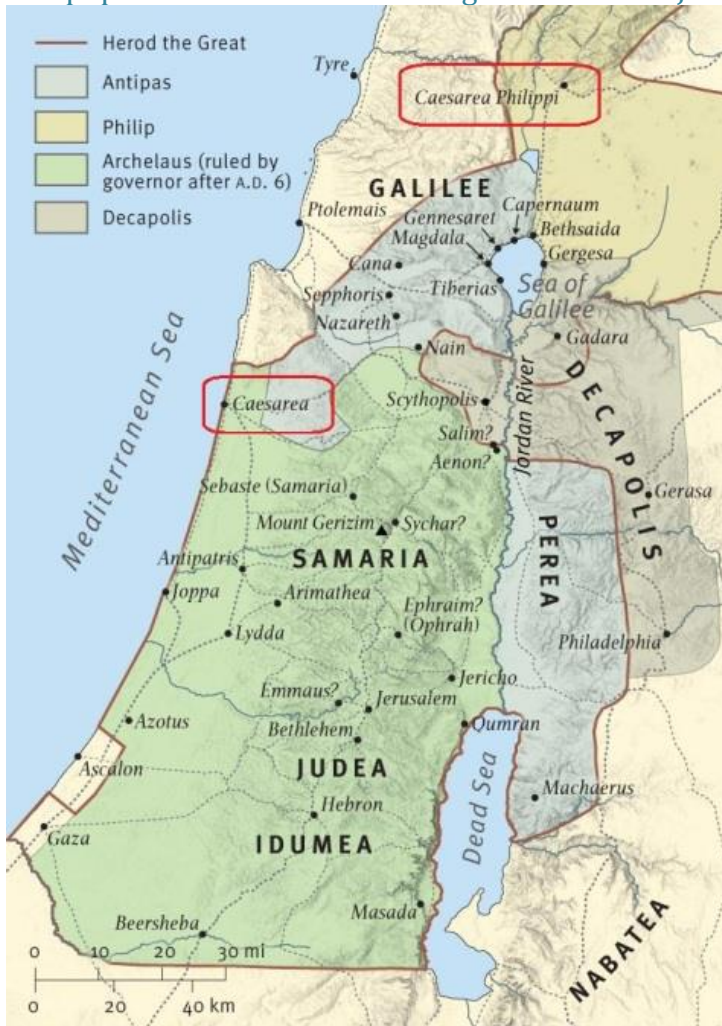
Jesus chose the region of Caesarea Philippi to ask His disciples, “*Who do people say that I am?*” ([Matt 16:13–20](#); [Mark 8:27–30](#))

Caesarea Philippi is a beautiful place with lots of trees, grassy fields, and natural springs of water.

- It is located about 25 miles northeast of the Sea of Galilee on the southwestern slope of Mount Hermon on a terrace 1,150 feet high, overlooking a fertile valley.
- The city is near the spot where the spring *Nahr Baniyas* (one of the sources of the Jordan River) gushes from a cave in the bluffs.

Caesarea Philippi was outside the domain of Herod Antipas, (ruler of Galilee), and within the area of Philip the Tetrarch.

- The population of the surrounding area was non-Jewish, so Jesus could teach the twelve in peace.



In Caesarea Philippi there was a great temple of white marble built to worship Caesar as god; it had been built by Herod the Great.

- Before the Romans worshiped Caesar there, the Greeks had worshiped the god Pan at Caesarea Philippi; and before that, the Syrians had worshiped the Baals at Caesarea Philippi.
- Some 14 different temple sites have been found at Caesarea Philippi.
- In one of the caves, evidence of human sacrifices has been found.

Jesus asked His disciples, “*Who do the people say that I am?*” while taking a break from ministry in a place that had been the center of pagan worship for centuries.

Luke 9:23-27

*“And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and **take up his cross daily and follow Me.**”* ²⁴ *“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.”* ²⁵ *“For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?”* ²⁶ *“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and *the glory* of the Father and of the holy angels.”* ²⁷ *“But I say to you truthfully, **there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.**”*

What a contrast!

- Jesus is standing in a place where people worshipped false gods who promised a better life to people who followed them.
 - Jesus doesn't promise a better life in this world; He promises a cross!
 - You can't have your reward in this world and the next one too... you have to choose!
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Follow Up Assignment

Q: Have you accepted that, as a disciple of Jesus, you are working for Jesus? If so, have you learned yet that you can rely on Jesus to support you?

- If yes, explain how you learned this lesson, and how it affects the way you live?
- If you haven't learned it yet, how does not trusting His support affect the way you live?

Q: Jesus provided the food for the 5000, but He gave it to His disciples to give to the people. This is still how Jesus operates. He provides the necessary resources to people seeking the gospel, but He gives those resources to His disciples to distribute.

- What resources has Jesus given you?
- Are you using what Jesus gave you to meet people's needs?

Q: When was the last time you decided not to deny yourself... and not pick up your cross?

- Is there anything you need to let go of in order to pick up your cross?