

'Luke' - Extra Teaching Points #15

Luke 9:23-48 (NASB95)

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."**

Q: What was Jesus saying some of them would live long enough to see?

- [Matt. 16:28](#) Records Jesus' prediction this way: **"Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."**
- Some people think Jesus is referring to the Transfiguration, which would happen 8 days after Jesus says this.
 - It seems unlikely that Jesus is talking about the Transfiguration.
 - It seems overly dramatic for Jesus to say only **some** of them would live long enough to see that.
 - Jesus made the same prediction in [Luke 21:27-32](#), which was after the Transfiguration.
- Some people think that Jesus is talking about the Day of Pentecost.
 - This could be what Jesus was talking about... it is hard to know for sure.
 - [Mark 9:1](#) says they will not die until they see the Kingdom come with power.
 - The Kingdom of God did come in power on the Day of Pentecost, however only 1 of them had died at that time.
 - "Some... will not taste death" sounds like more than one of them would die before they would see what He was predicting.
- I think Jesus is talking about the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.
 - [Matt. 24:1-30](#) *"Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. ² And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."* ³ *As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"* ... ²⁹ **"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory...**"**
 - This is not necessarily the 2nd coming – the disciples weren't asking Jesus about a 2nd coming – but a coming in judgment.
 - There have been many times God was said to have come in Judgment—Babylon, Egypt, Assyria, etc.
 - I think this explanation fits the facts of Jesus' statement better than the other suggestions.

Q: Why does this matter?

- The destruction of Jerusalem would have been one of, if not, *the* most unbelievable of all Jesus' prophecies.
 - Jerusalem being destroyed – just as He predicted – confirms His reliability.
 - The lack of reference to the destruction of Jerusalem in any of the New Testament writings suggests **all the books were written before 70AD**, which has a big impact on the way we would read and understand Revelation.
 - It firmly fixes *"the end of the age"* as the end of Judaism, which gives more clarity as to the meaning of *"the last days"*.

- It places the arrival of the Kingdom age in the first century, which many Christians today believe is something we are still waiting for.
- If it arrived in the first century, then the Kingdom is here now; we possess it now; and it is advancing now!

Luke 9:28-36

“Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming. ³⁰ And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him. ³³ And as these were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah” — not realizing what he was saying. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!” ³⁶ And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.”

Matt 17:1 and Mark 9:2-8 also tell this story, but both say it happened 6 days later.

- Some critics believe this is a contradiction, but Luke says it was “some 8 days”, or “about 8 days”—not *exactly* 8 days.
 - Actually it proves the gospel writers were not copying each other, or they would have said it the same way.
 - Luke must have gotten his information from another source who was less definite about the exact number of days this took place after Caesarea Philippi.

Vs. 30 We aren’t given the exact conversation between Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, but we are told the topic—His “departure” that was about to happen at Jerusalem.

- The word “departure” is the Greek word “**exodus**” which means “*a way out, a going out, or a departure*” from life.
 - Moses had accomplished an exodus when he led the Israelites out of Egypt.
 - Jesus was about to accomplish a second exodus by leading His people out of slavery from the dominion of darkness.
- Moses and Elijah represent the Law and The Prophets—the sum of all the instruction and information the Jews had ever received from God.
 - They were affirming Jesus!

Q: Is there any significance to verse 33 recording that, as Moses and Elijah were leaving, Peter wanted to build tents and keep them around a little longer?

- What Jew wouldn’t want to hang out with Moses and Elijah?
- Luke records Peter didn’t know what he was saying.
 - Moses and Elijah were there to “pass the torch” to Jesus.
 - They weren’t there to stay... they were there to endorse Jesus and then go away.
- Peter wanted them all to stay—Jesus, Moses, and Elijah.
 - Some Christians today want the same thing.
 - They want to bring elements of Judaism into Christianity.
- **“This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!”** In verse 34, this would have been an emphatic rebuke of anyone wanting to hang on to Moses and Elijah!
 - They were no longer going to be the guides for God’s people.
 - They had been leading people to Jesus, but now He was here... and their job was finished.

Luke 9:37-45

*"On the next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him. ³⁸ And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only boy, ³⁹ and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming at the mouth; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him as it leaves. ⁴⁰ "I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not." ⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said, "**You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.**" ⁴² While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. But while everyone was marveling at all that He was doing, He said to His disciples, ⁴⁴ "**Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.**" ⁴⁵ **But they did not understand this statement, and it was concealed from them so that they would not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this statement.**"*

Q: Whom was Jesus disappointed with in verse 41?

- Jesus was bugged with His own disciples' lack of faith.
 - Jesus had no problem casting the demon out; His disciples, acting on His authority, should have had no trouble either.
- In [Matt 17:14-20](#) Jesus said the disciples weren't able to cast the demon out because they had such little faith.
 - Apparently demons notice your faith the same way God does... it takes faith to drive out demons!
- In [Mark 9:14-29](#) Jesus said demons, like the one tormenting the boy, could only be cast out by *prayer*.
 - It also takes *faith* to have prayers answered!

Luke 9:46-48

*"An argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest. ⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side, ⁴⁸ and said to them, "**Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great.**"*

- People often try to advance their status by attaching themselves to someone they view as superior to themselves.
- Jesus wanted His disciples to view everyone as more important than themselves.

Follow Up Assignment

Q: God said to Peter, James, and John, **"This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!"** How are you doing at listening to Him?

- What other voices do you hear competing with Jesus' voice?
- What helps you listen to Him better?

Q: Jesus was bugged with His own disciples' lack of faith, which showed up in their inability to do the work Jesus had left them to do.

- How does Jesus feel about your faith?
- Do you trust Him enough to carry out the work He has left you here to do?