

**Episode:** Luke Series No. 10

**Narrator:** James the Apostle

**Primary Scriptures:** Luke 9

**Story Summary:** Miracles of Jesus, Mount of Transfiguration

**Location:** Galilee

**Time:** Circa 30 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Luke 9:1-2, 9:13-14, 9:20, 9:23-25, 9:48, 9:50-51, 9:62

Luke builds his Gospel by showing how Jesus calls his twelve apostles and then trains them. This training takes the form of spending time with Jesus, watching him do miracles and healings, and listening to his teachings. By Luke 9, the basic training is over and advanced training has started. Jesus empowers the apostles and gives them authority to drive out demons and cure people, and to teach about the Kingdom of God.

Luke tamps down their success by saying they returned to Jesus and reported the results, but Jesus just took them and withdrew to the small town of Bethsaida. Luke follows this with the story of the feeding of the five thousand. The apostles should have learned that they had the power to feed the people, but they did not understand this even after Jesus encouraged them. They must have been very confused about what power they did and didn't have.

On another occasion, Jesus takes an opportunity to set the record straight. He puts Peter in the position of having to state who Jesus is. When Peter correctly named Jesus as the Christ, it becomes undisputed among the apostles who they are serving. Rather than extol all the good things that are going to happen, Jesus explains how much they will have to suffer. He knew he had to keep their expectations in check. In another instance of overturning their expectations, Jesus takes three of them up on the Mount of Transfiguration and confirms their belief in him.

Have you ever thought how confused the disciples must have stayed? One moment they learn about the benefits of following Jesus, and the next they learn the cost of that following will be suffering. One moment, Jesus shows his Messiahship by healing unhealable people, and the next he is talking about his death.

To add to the apostles' bewilderment, Jesus has the habit of saying confusing things. In this chapter alone he says, "It is the least among you who is the greatest"; "whoever is not against you is for you"; and whoever want to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it." It is easy, after 2000 years of received wisdom about Jesus, to envision how awesome it would have been to be with him, but maybe the apostles didn't feel that way all the time.

One verse not to miss is Luke 9:51. Luke is making a transition in this passage by saying Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. From this point on, Jesus is irrevocably committed to going to Jerusalem and to the cross.

### Discussion Questions:

1. In Luke 9:9, Luke comments that Herod wanted to see Jesus. He indicates that this desire was born out of both fear and curiosity. How might the story of Jesus proceeded if he had gone to meet Herod at this time in his ministry? Might it have changed the outcome of the trial before Herod on the night Jesus was betrayed?
  2. After the feeding of the five thousand, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. Is there any significance to that number? What do you think they did with the leftovers?
  3. After the Mount of Transfiguration, Luke writes that the disciples kept the event a secret. Why do you think Jesus asked them to keep it a secret? Why would they have wanted to keep it a secret? Was the secret shared with all the apostles, or did the three keep it among themselves?
  4. Luke portrays this time in Jesus' ministry as very successful, but he starts giving hints of things to come. For instance, after the healing of the boy, Jesus seems to randomly say that he is going to be betrayed. Why would Jesus have picked that time to say such a thing?
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1. One for each of the apostles, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel?

### Application Questions

1. Jesus picked only three apostles to accompany him on the Mount of Transfiguration. Why did he pick Peter, John, and James? Do you have some of those same qualities?
2. After Jesus healed the demon-possessed boy, the people were amazed at the greatness of God. How can people be amazed at the greatness of God through your actions and beliefs? Are you typically striving for God to get the credit, or for you to get the credit?
3. Peter had a clear answer as to who Jesus is: God's messiah. If somebody asked you who Jesus is, how would you answer the question?
4. In what ways has Jesus overturned your expectations throughout your life? What can you do to prepare for future instances of this?

### Application Questions for Teens

1. In the story of the demon-possessed boy, he was involuntarily subjected to convulsions and screaming. Do you think people are still possessed by demons, or are illnesses always physical or mental? Does your answer indicate the way you treat people with illnesses?
2. Jesus said that he will be ashamed of anyone who is ashamed of Jesus and his words. What could you do to make sure you never act ashamed of Jesus?
3. Jesus said that the least among his followers is the greatest. What marks those who are least? [humility, servant attitude, love] Would you be willing to settle for being great like that or would you prefer to be the most popular kid in the room?