HOMEWORK: Read Luke chapters 9 & 10

**Main Point**

We must trust in the power and provision of Christ as He changes our perspective from “come and see” to “go and do.”

Read Luke 9:1-17.

* **What two things did Jesus give His disciples authority over in verse 1?**
* **While Jesus’ primary charge to the disciples was to “proclaim the kingdom of God” (v. 2), He also empowered them to heal and cast out demons. Why was healing an important complement to Jesus’ gospel preaching?**

Jesus did not heal the sick and cast out demons just to show how great He was. He did these things to validate His message and to show that He has authority over sin and death.

After the Twelve had observed Jesus' ministry for several months, He delegated power and authority over demons and diseases to them. Their other mission (Gk apostello; &quot;to send out&quot;) was to proclaim the kingdom of God. In the parallel passage in Mt 10, the apostles were specifically instructed to avoid the Samaritans and Gentiles and to go only to &quot;the lost sheep of the house of Israel&quot; (Mt 10:5-6), but Luke did not include this restriction.

Read Luke 9:18-36.

* **Based on what you know about Moses and Elijah, what is the significance of their appearing with Jesus on the mount of transfiguration?**
* **How might that understanding of this event encourage us to endure the pain and suffering we might face in life?**

It is important that we remember the context of the transfiguration, Jesus had recently begun teaching that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer, and die (Luke 9:21-22). The transfiguration revealed the eternal nature of Jesus. Death would not be able to hold Jesus down. Jesus had also recently confirmed for His disciples that He was indeed the Christ (Luke 9:19-20), the Messiah who would take away the sins of the world. By seeing Jesus’ eternal nature in light of His role as our Savior, we are reminded that this world is not our home—Jesus is preparing a place for us (see John 14:2).

Read  Luke 9:37-62.

* **How might our own pride keep us from focusing our lives on kingdom priorities?**
* **In verses 46-48, how are the disciples gauging “greatness”? Why were they so concerned about which of them was greatest?**
* **Why does Jesus use the child as an object lesson on true greatness in the kingdom?**

The Twelve squabbled about who was greatest among them and demonstrated a jealous streak when an outsider used Jesus’ name to do good. Jesus patiently revealed the truth to them. The question about who would be the greatest among the apostles came up more than once (22:24). Jesus knew the competitive pride that fostered the argument and was quick to point out that, spiritually, whoever was least (truly humble as a disciple of Christ) was great.

Read Luke 10:1-24.

* **Jesus had just appointed seventy-two people to carry on His kingdom ministry. Why did He say “the workers are few”?**
* **What does the ratio of harvest to workers tell us about the urgency of the task of evangelism?**

Already in Jesus’ ministry, the soil had begun to produce and the harvest was ready. Crops will not wait on farmers to be ready to harvest them. When the harvest is plentiful, farmers must be ready to act or else run the risk of losing the crop. God has chosen us to accomplish the task of evangelism and we must not wait around until we feel ready. We must be prepared to take the gospel to the lost, but we also need to be aware that we cannot do this on our own. We must rely on the Lord for strength and for more workers to help us reap the harvest.

Read Luke 10:25-42.

* **What does it look like in practical terms to love God with your heart, soul, strength, and mind?**
* **On the other hand, what actions and attitudes make it evident that you love your neighbor as yourself?**

Jesus charged the scribe with practicing what he knew. He requires His followers to put the law of love into action. Demonstration of love comes as a grateful response to God’s love, not as an attempt to win it.

* **What is the most challenging part of Jesus’ story to you? Why?**

Helping people is rarely convenient, but it is always Christlike. After Jesus asked the expert in the law if he understood who the real neighbor was, He gave one final command: “Go and do the same” (v. 37). In the original language of this verse, the verb “do” implies habitual action—an action that should be common to us.