

I. Introduction.

II. Jesus is determined to fulfill His mission. v. 51

- A. This is a major turning point in Luke's gospel.
 - 1. Jesus has completed his Galilean ministry. 4:14-9:50
 - 2. He begins His journey to Jerusalem. 9:51-19:44 13:22 17:11 Mark 10:32
- B. In what sense is Jesus about to ascend? 9:31
 - 1. Lifted up to die on the cross? John 3:14-15 8:28 12:32-33
 - 2. The ascension to glory which occurs after His crucifixion, death and resurrection? 24:51 Acts 1:2,9,11,22
 - 3. This appears to be another connection with the prophet Elijah. 9:30 2 Ki. 2:10-11
- C. What is the significance of the fact that Jesus is determined to go to Jerusalem?
 - 1. He knows what awaits Him there according to the divine purpose. 9:22 13:33 24:25-27 12:50 Isa. 53:10 Acts 2:23
 - 2. He is absolutely resolute to complete the work the Father has given Him to do. v. 62 John 6:38 4:34 Isa. 50:7 Jer. 21:10 Ezek. 6:2 13:17 21:2-3 Heb. 12:2
- D. How does this apply to us? Eph. 2:10 Acts 1:8 Mt. 28:18ff Titus 2:14 Ps. 90:10,12,17 Heb. 9:27 12:1ff 1 Pet. 2:21 Rom. 8:18

III. Others do not understand or appreciate Jesus' mission. v. 52-56

- A. The Samaritans refuse to welcome Jesus. v. 52-53
 - 1. The Samaritans are products of intermarriage between Israelites from the Northern tribes and pagans who resettled in the land. 2 Kings 17:6-24
 - 2. Their religion was also a mixture of Judaism and paganism. 2 Ki. 17:25-41 John 4:20 Ezra 4:1ff Neh. 13:3,30
 - 3. Jesus sends some of His followers ahead to make arrangements for His entourage.
 - 4. Are there echos of John the Baptist here? 3:4,9,17 7:27 1:17,76 Mal. 3:1 John 4:25
 - 5. The Samaritans sinfully turn away the Lord's Servant. John 4:9
 - 6. The rejection by the Samaritans resembles the hostility Jesus experienced at the beginning of His Galilean ministry. 4:16-30
- B. James and John want to bring God's wrath upon this village. v. 54 Mark 3:17
 - 1. They are right that the Samaritans are wrong about matters of religion and worship.
 - 2. It is true that these Samaritans were especially guilty for their failure to show hospitality to Jesus the Messiah. Gen. 18:1ff 19:1ff Heb. 13:1-2 Mt. 25:34ff
 - 3. Suddenly the disciples seem to have great faith – that fire would come from heaven.
 - 4. There is precedent for their proposed action (again in the life of Elijah). 17:29 9:5 10:10-16 2 Ki. 1:9-12 Gen. 19:1ff John 1:14 13:20
- C. Jesus rebukes them because they don't understand His present mission. 19:10 9:42
 - 1. He did not come to bring judgment, but rather to bring salvation. John 3:16-17 12:47
 - 2. Many among the Samaritans will be saved. John 4:39-42 Acts 1:8 8:1ff 15:3
 - 3. Elsewhere Samaritans are portrayed positively. 10:33ff 17:16
 - 4. When Jesus returns He will bring fiery wrath upon those who reject Him. 17:29-30 Rev. 20:9 2 Thess. 1:6ff

D. Application:

1. Are you prone to judge others? Mt. 7:1-5 Js. 4:11-12,1-3
2. God is patient and calls you to proclaim His mercy. 6:27-29 Ex. 34:6 Ps. 103:8
2 Pet. 3:9 Rom. 2:4 Mt. 5:7 Rom. 12:19 Gen. 50:19 Col. 3:12-14 2 Cor. 10:4-5
3. Are you hospitable? Heb. 13:1-3

IV. Those who follow Jesus must put Him first. v. 57-62

- A. As Jesus is walking down His hard road of obedience He encounters three prospective disciples. v. 57,59,61 5:11,27
- B. Jesus is more important than earthly comfort or security. v. 57-58 14:33 19:22 Mt. 8:18f
1. Is there something wrong with this man's offer to follow Jesus? 22:33 John 13:36-37
 2. Jesus knows what is in this man's heart. 8:13-14 John 2:24
 3. Jesus and his followers give up their stake in this world. 18:28-31 Heb. 11:13-16
1 Pe. 2:11 John 1:11 6:66 2 Co. 8:9 Ps. 90:1 Phil. 2:19-21
- C. Jesus must take priority over every other relationship. v. 59-60 14:25-27 Mt. 12:49
1. Burying a dead relative is an important family duty. Gen. 25:9 35:29 49:28-50:3
Josh. 24:29-30 Ex. 20:12 Lev. 21:1ff
 2. Elsewhere Jesus affirms our responsibility to care for our parents. Mt. 15:3ff
 3. Proclaiming Jesus' kingdom is even more important. 14:25-27 Mt. 5:23-24
 4. Was this man's father even dead yet?
 5. In what sense will the dead bury their own dead?
 6. We must put what Jesus wants us to do ahead of what our family wants us to do.
- D. You must follow Jesus without delay. v. 61-62 5:28
1. When Elisha was called he was allowed to bid his family farewell. 1 Ki. 19:19-21
Acts 18:18,21 2 Co. 2:13
 2. The need to follow Jesus is more urgent.
 3. Don't look back. 17:32 Gen. 19:26

V. Concluding applications.

- A. What is your response to Jesus' call? Josh. 24:15 Col. 1:13 2 Tim. 2:3-4 John 6:37
- B. Jesus is not asking you to do for Him any more than He has already done for you. v. 51
2 Cor. 8:9 John 17:4 Mark 10:45

Discussion questions

1. How is verse 51 a turning point in Luke's gospel? What is the focus of the next section?
2. How does Jesus' determination to go to Jerusalem relate to the demands He places on those who would be His disciples?
3. Why would it have made sense for James and John to call fire down from heaven on the inhospitable Samaritans?
4. Why was their rejection of Jesus such a serious offense?
5. Why was it wrong for James and John to call down fire from heaven?
6. What is Jesus' long term plan for the Samaritans?
7. Why doesn't Jesus embrace the three prospective disciples in verses 57-62?
8. How does Jesus' call to discipleship differ from how many people market the church today?
9. What comes between you and putting Jesus first as His disciple?
10. Do the radical demands of discipleship contradict the idea that salvation is all of grace? Explain your answer.