



Week 12: The Beginning of The Journey to Jerusalem

Introduction:

In Luke 9:51, Jesus “set His face to go to Jerusalem,” opening what is known as Luke’s journey narrative — a section of Luke’s Gospel running through 19:27 and made up primarily of material found only in Luke. As Jesus journeys toward the cross, He challenges us to do two things:

1. Reorient our vision of God, His character, and His priorities
2. Live lives that reflect this new vision

In this early portion of the journey narrative, Jesus issues His twofold challenge through His teachings about the Kingdom of God, through His increasing conflict with Satan and hypocritical leaders, and through His exhortations to prepare for future judgment.

Questions:

Read Luke 9:51–56

1. (Breakout) Why do you think Jesus rebuked James and John? Recall Luke 9:1–9 and see how Jesus instructs them to handle rejection. What might this reveal about God's mercy, and the timing of His judgment?

Answer:

Read Luke 9:57–62

2. Here we see the high cost of following Jesus. But what exactly is the cost? How would Jesus respond to you if you had this conversation with Him?

Answer:

Read Luke 10:1–24

3. In Jesus' instructions, we see the judgment warning spelled out. In declaring the judgment on Galilean (Jewish) towns who reject Jesus as worse than gentile cities (which were godless), what idea is further enforced here?

Answer:

4. The power the disciples receive during this sending seems tremendous, even compared to the last sending. Why do you think Jesus equips them in a stronger way this time? How might the transfiguration, which has just taken place, play into this?

Answer:

Read Luke 10:25–37

5. (Breakout) The disciples had just encountered rejection in Samaria and wished death on them for it. It is likely not at all a coincidence that the neighbor turned out to be a Samaritan in this story. How does this parable enforce the idea of the upside-down Kingdom Jesus has been preaching? Are there any other themes from the Gospel of Luke that are emphasized here as well?

Answer:

Read Luke 10:38–42

6. What was Martha's error? How does it relate to our lives today?

Answer:

Closing Thought:

After His transfiguration, the time draws near to focus more intensely on His and the Father's mission as He starts His journey to Jerusalem. Here we see in greater depth the mercy and judgment that are coming as the Kingdom of God approaches. Along the way, Jesus continues to equip His people to go out and prepare the world. May we always be prepared for the coming return of our Savior.