

The Limited Commission (9:1-6)

In order to take the gospel to more cities, Jesus sent the Twelve Apostles on what is called the “limited commission.” This commission is distinguished from the “great commission” in its scope; the apostles were limited to the house of Israel, but in the great commission were sent to all nations. In the limited commission, the disciples were instructed not to make provisions for themselves while preaching. (This did not apply to the great commission [see 22:35].)

Herod’s Knowledge of Jesus (9:7-9)

Herod heard that Jesus was in his territory. The speculation that Jesus might be John the Baptist risen from the dead, Elijah, or one of the prophets perplexed him. He wanted to see Jesus personally. His wish was not fulfilled until Jesus’ trial.

Feeding of the Five Thousand (9:10-17)

Upon returning from the limited commission, Jesus withdrew with His disciples to Bethsaida for rest. The crowds followed them around the northern edge of the Sea of

Galilee. Jesus used the occasion to teach the people. As evening began to come, the disciples urged Jesus to send the multitude away in order that they might buy something to eat. He said, “Give ye them to eat.”

The disciples responded that there was only had five loaves and two fish. Jesus had the crowd to be seated. He blessed the food and began to break it to

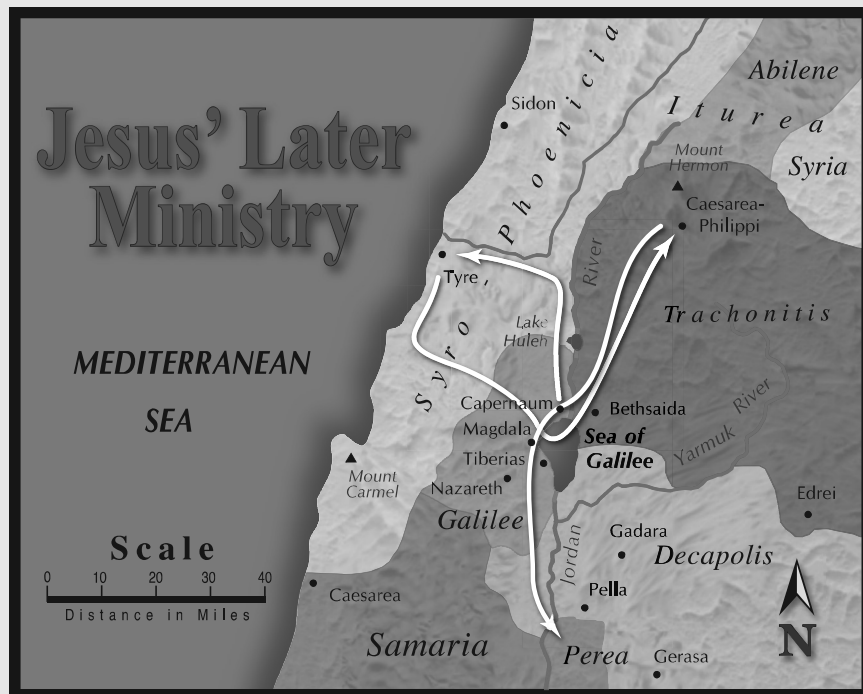
Lesson 10

The Limited Commission, Transfiguration, and Other Events

Luke 9



View of the mosaic below the altar of the church at Heptapegon/Tabgha that commemorates the multiplication of the five loaves and two fishes in the story of the feeding of the five thousand (Mark 6:33–44).



give to the people. Jesus miraculously fed the 5000 men (not counting women and children) from the five loaves and two fish; twelve baskets of left over fragments were taken up.

Peter’s Confession and Teaching about Discipleship (9:18-27)

Luke records a brief account of the confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (cf. Matt. 16:13-20). To offset misconceptions regarding the work of the Christ, Jesus foretold His death (9:21-22). He then told them that discipleship required self-denial, cross bearing, and following Him (9:23).

Those who were unwilling to make those kinds of sacrifices to follow Jesus would lose their souls. He



The Hula Valley stands in the foreground and Mount Hermon in the background. Since Jesus had just traveled to Caesarea Philippi immediately before the Transfiguration, most scholars believe that the mount which He ascended for the transfiguration was Mount Hermon. Tradition links the transfiguration to Mount Tabor, but that does not fit the geographical clues in the text.

also explained that the establishment of the kingdom of God was very near, within their own lifetime (9:27).

The Transfiguration (9:28-36)

Eight days after these teachings, Jesus went into a mountain to pray, taking with Him Peter, James, and John. While He prayed, He was transfigured so that His raiment was white and glistening. Two men, Elijah and Moses, appeared in glory and spoke with Jesus concerning His death at Jerusalem. Peter, James, and John had fallen asleep; when they awoke, Peter said, “Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he spake, a cloud overshadowed them and a voice spoke out of the cloud saying, “This is my beloved Son: hear Him.”

Healing the Demon Possessed Boy (9:37-45)

When Jesus and the three disciples descended from the mountain,

they found many people gathered together. The other apostles had tried to heal a demon possessed boy and failed.

Jesus rebuked the disciples for their failure and then healed the boy by casting out the unclean spirit in him. Again, Jesus foretold His death (9:43-45). Despite His plainness of speech, the disciples did not understand His saying.

Contention about Who Is the Greatest (9:46-48)

The Twelve Apostles argued among themselves regarding who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus took a small child and said, “Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth Me: and whosoever shall receive Me receiveth Him that sent Me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.” The true road to greatness, in the kingdom of God, is through humility and service.

Encourage Those Who Work with Us (9:49-50)

The apostle John met some who were working miracles in Jesus’ name, but who were not with them. He forbade them. Jesus responded, “Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.” Inasmuch as this passage has been abused to teach that we should not oppose those in denominations, we need to notice that these (1) were working miracles in Jesus name and (2) were “for us.” They were working within the limitations of Jesus’ authority, not working in unauthorized areas.

Jesus Turned toward Jerusalem (9:51)

This begins a new section in Luke’s gospel that continues through chapter 18. Jesus departed from Galilee on His way to Jerusalem. The events and teachings in this section occurred while they traveled on the final journey toward Jerusalem and His death.

A Samaritan Village Refused Jesus (9:52-56)

As Jesus journeyed toward Jerusalem, He passed through a Samaritan village. When they perceived that He was a Jew heading toward Jerusalem, they would not receive Him. James and John wanted to call down fire from heaven to consume this village, as Elijah had done (2 Kings 1:10-12). Jesus rebuked their spirit of revenge.

Counting the Cost of Discipleship (9:57-62)

Three would-be disciples came to Jesus, wishing to follow Him. He instructed each to count the cost of discipleship. The first said, “I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.” Jesus reminded him that the Son of Man did not even have a place to lay His head.

Jesus commanded another, "Follow me." This person postponed obeying the Lord's command, stating that he must first go and bury his father. Jesus stated

that kingdom business was more important than this. Another came saying that he would follow Jesus, but to first allow him to bid his family good-bye. Jesus said, "No man,

having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Discipleship must take precedence over every relationship we sustain in life.

Questions

1. To whom were the disciples sent on the Limited Commission (cf. Matt. 10:5-6)? _____
2. Why were the instructions regarding what they were to take when preaching not binding on all generations (cf. 22:35)? _____

3. What were they to learn from the experiences of the Limited Commission? _____

4. What were the popular opinions about who Jesus was (9:7-9)? _____

5. What does the feeding of the 5000 show about Jesus? _____

6. What does the confession "Jesus is the Christ" mean (v. 20)? _____

7. What did Jesus know about what would happen to Him in Jerusalem (9:21-22)? _____

8. What does each of the following mean (9:23):
 - a. Deny himself: _____
 - b. Take up his cross daily: _____
 - c. Follow me: _____
9. What do vv. 24-25 teach us about discipleship? _____

10. How might one be ashamed of Jesus and His word today (v. 26)? _____
11. What does 9:27 tell us about the date of the establishment of the Lord's kingdom? _____

12. What does the transfiguration teach us about Jesus (9:28-34)? _____

13. Why were the disciples unable to heal the boy in 9:37-42? _____

14. What does Jesus' foreknowledge of His death prove (9:43-45)? _____

15. What attributes of a child did Jesus commend (9:46-48)? _____

- What attributes of a child did Paul criticize and commend (1 Cor. 14:20)? _____

16. How does one become great in the kingdom of heaven (9:48)? _____

17. How do we know that those in 9:49-50 were walking in the light of God's word? _____

18. What does 9:49-50 teach should be one's attitude toward those who disobey the word of God? _____

19. Why did the Samaritans reject Jesus (9:51-56)? _____
20. What manner of spirit did James and John display (9:55)? _____
21. Does 9:56 teach that Jesus will not put anyone in hell (cf. John 3:16-18)? _____
22. What lessons are to be learned from the would-be followers of Jesus (9:57-62):
- a. First follower: _____
 - b. Second follower: _____
 - c. Third follower: _____

True or False?

- _____ 1. Preachers of all centuries are bound to obey the instructions of 9:3-4.
- _____ 2. Those who reject one who teaches the gospel reject Jesus.
- _____ 3. A Christian should never give up on a "prospect."
- _____ 4. Herod thought Jesus was John the Baptist arisen from the dead.
- _____ 5. There were only 5000 people fed by Jesus' miracle in 9:10-17.

Matching

Match these titles of Jesus with their meaning.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Lord | a. Deliverer, preserver |
| _____ 2. Christ | b. One who has authority to command |
| _____ 3. Savior | c. Emphasizes His humanity |
| _____ 4. Son of God | d. Anointed one; prophesied Messiah of OT |
| _____ 5. Son of Man | e. Emphasizes His deity |

Overcoming Denominational Error

What differences do you see in how modern faith healers explain their failures and how the Bible explains the failure of Luke 9:37-42? _____

