



Study 7

Luke 9:1-36

INTRODUCTION

1. Can you think of any anyone who has had huge influence and on a large scale on people but about whom there have been widely varying opinions?
2. What evidence is there that Jesus has had some influence on those around us (family, friends, colleagues, Australia)?

STUDY

By the time we get to chapter 9 of Luke's biography, Jesus seems to be have become famous. The religious leaders have come to pay him a visit. He's been on tour.

Read Luke 9:1-36 with these questions in mind:

3. How has he touched the nation of Israel in the first century?
4. What impact do people expect him to have?

Work through the following table. You may want to break up into groups and assign a section or two to each group.

Herod v. 7-9	How do you think hearing about what took place in verses 1-6 affected Herod considering that earlier he had knocked off Jesus' second cousin? What are the implications of Jesus' rise to fame for Herod?
The crowds v. 18-19	Why would the crowds have responded, 'John the Baptist', 'Elijah' or 'one of the prophets', in answer to Jesus' question? (Compare Luke 7:11-17 with 1 Kings 17:17-24 and Luke 9:12-17 with Exodus 16:1-4) Take each one of these hypothetical answers in turn. What would the have been the impact of each of them on people's lives at the time if they were true?
The disciples v. 1-6, 10, 13, 20-22	How do you think the disciples would have felt after travelling the land of Israel with the authority granted to them by Jesus? From what you know of Luke's biography so far, what message do you think they were announcing to people? What might they have felt in the light of the different responses they encountered? What do you think Peter meant when he said that Jesus was the Christ?
Jesus Luke 9:21-22, 23-27	In what ways do you think the disciples might have found Jesus' prediction about himself puzzling? What might following God's chosen king look like for them? Why do you think that Jesus told them to keep quiet about what he had just explained about himself?
The dazzling king Luke 9:28-36	How does Jesus' transformation on the mountain confirm what the disciples and Peter thought about Jesus? Why does Peter want to make tents for his heroes? (Festival of booths) How does knowing that the word "departure" in 7:31 is literally "exodus", help us draw the thought of Christ

and Jesus' description of the Christ together? What were they referring to when they spoke about Jesus' "exodus"?

Why do you think God the Father needs to tell Peter, James and John 'This is my Son, listen to him?'

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS

There have been a number of different views about Jesus expressed in this chapter.

5. Can you identify each of them? Each person's view about Jesus will lead them in a particular direction.
6. Where do the different views you've identified take people?
7. How does the way that we follow Jesus indicate our understanding of who he is? What is essential for his kingship? What is essential for our following?

Think of some of your friends and colleagues.

8. Whose perspective in the passage would resonate most with them if they were asked to say who Jesus was?
9. What kind of threat or comfort comes from them thinking like that?
10. What is something that you could say to help, correct or encourage them?

LUKE 9:1-36 LEADER NOTES:

In many ways, the disciples are our guide to discovering who Jesus is. They are the meat in the sandwich between different opinions about who Jesus is. They have a privileged position. As we have seen earlier, to them has been given secrets of the kingdom of heaven (8:10). And now (9:1-2), They have been given authority (with some power) by Jesus to take the message of the kingdom to Israel. But do they really know the king – what he is like and what it means to follow him?

Apart from the disciples, we hear the noise of opinion and thoughts regarding Jesus from a wide range of people; from King Herod himself and all the way down to the most oppressed in the land. All are trying to work out who Jesus is. At the centre of the passage is Peter's declaration that he believes that Jesus is 'the Christ' – promised descendent of King David who will rule eternally. Jesus then puts the disciples straight on what it means to be the king and to follow him (21-27). It is to follow him to his crucifixion in Jerusalem. Not something that they would expect of the Christ who is meant to rule the world. Why do they need this lesson? What were they expecting?

Either side of the declaration are two miraculous events which help us bring together the different theories about who Jesus is.

- i. **9:10-17 Jesus feeds 5000.** This feeding looks back to God's provision of bread in the wilderness through Moses. Imagine a king that can feed his people? One that can fuel an army? He has established himself as a prophet already in Luke. (Moses predicts that a prophet greater than himself will come - Deuteronomy 18:18)
- ii. **9:28-36 Jesus is transfigured.** Jesus' glory is revealed to Peter, James and John in a massive way when he is transfigured on the mountain. Moses and Elijah are with him. Elijah is the most famous prophet to the nation of Israel. He is also the last prophet mentioned in the Old Testament (Malachi 4:5-6). Moses and Elijah talk to Jesus about his departure that will happen in Jerusalem (9:31). The word for 'departure' is the same as the word for 'exodus'. The glory of God was shown in his freeing the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. God's glory will be shown in freeing his people from sin and death through the Exodus of his son: through his death and resurrection and ascension in Jerusalem. God affirms two things about Jesus in what he says in Luke 8:35:- 'This is my son, My chosen one; listen to him'. In this Jesus is affirmed as God's chosen King, the Christ. In 2 Samuel 7 (11b-16), God will call the descendent of David who will reign forever over his people his Son. His command to listen to Jesus affirms that he speaks the very words of God. He is the complete prophet. This event seems glorious to Peter (it is) and he is fearful but wants to enjoy the moment with Israel's heroes. He wants to celebrate the victory and guidance of God through the festival of booths.

At the festival, people made little shelters (tents) which brought to mind God bringing his people Israel out of Egypt and preserving them in the wilderness on their way to the land of Israel. Moses was in charge of Israel in the wilderness and he spoke in God's place to God's people.

The conversation of the two Old Testament prophets (Moses and Elijah) with Jesus points to the painful reality soon to come, but in view of the greater glory that would follow. It is an episode that shows how Jesus Christ's glory and humiliation will go together.

The challenge of Jesus' description about himself (9:21-27) and about his followers will be played out through the rest of Luke. Jesus' call to 'take up your cross and follow me' is a call to come and die with him. An invitation that none of the disciples ended up fully taking before Jesus truly showed his glory. Some would follow Jesus in that way later on, with their own lives being taken because they trusted Jesus. The challenges for us now that we live this side of the cross are:

- i. Will we own a crucified saviour?
- ii. Do we see the power of God in what Jesus has done?
- iii. Are we tempted somehow to want to show Jesus' glory in a different way in order to share his glory now?
- iv. Are we ready to own Jesus' words and if needed suffer for them?