



# Study 8

## Luke 9:37-51

### Big Idea of the passage:

The absolute necessity of Jesus' departure to Jerusalem so as fulfill the mission that God has placed before him.

### Main application:

Our absolute need of Jesus to go through with his mission. We have so much to thank him for.

### Notes

This passage reveals even further the necessity of Jesus' departure. At the very moment when his disciples expect Jesus to make a move for the Kingdom in glory, he reinforces to them that this will only be achieved through his death. The last verse (9:51) sees Jesus setting his face towards Jerusalem where fulfilment will be secured – this is the only way the glorious Kingdom will actually come. Of course, even as Jesus reveals the necessity of this course, things are still hidden (9:45) from his followers.

As we have seen throughout our series it is Jesus *alone* who is qualified to walk this path, for:

- he overcomes Satan and temptation
- he has authority over sickness, evil and creation.
- he is Lord of the Sabbath
- he forgives sins
- he is the coming Son of Man
- he is fulfilling the Scriptures
- he calls people to his new kingdom project and sends them out
- he brings hope to the hopeless

Thus Jesus alone is the one who is able to deal with sin, death and all its symptoms.

The events following the wonders of Jesus' transfiguration only highlight how needy and unqualified Israel and especially the disciples are.

- The disciples can't heal the boy (9:37-43) because they too are part of the fallen and twisted generation that needs healing and salvation.
- The disciples can't bring in the Kingdom (9:46-50) for they don't understand how God sees true greatness through humble service of others. Service to those who bring no apparent benefit to you. Their argument about greatness is not an encouraging moment but highlights the vastly different kingdom that Jesus is calling for.
- Sandwiched in between is Jesus' repetition of his coming death in Jerusalem which although 'revealed' is also 'hidden' (9:43b-45). Their passive fear to Jesus' words point again to their need to receive salvation themselves before they can truly see and understand the mission and wonder of Jesus.

Although people continue to wonder and be amazed at what Jesus *can do* (v.43), it is the greater wonder and amazement of what he *must do* that now becomes more evident. We as readers can see this through the need and blindness of those in the narrative who as yet cannot.

# Study

## INTRO: SOME POSSIBLE OPENING QUESTIONS

What's something that's happened for you in the last couple of weeks that confirmed for you again that you really need Jesus?

Even though we know we need Christ, we can so easily seek to trust our own ability and wisdom (to our detriment). Can you think of a recent example where Jesus alone needed to be trusted and not yourself?

### *Comment:*

In 9:51 Jesus sets his face towards Jerusalem which makes sense given what was revealed about what he must accomplish during his transfiguration (9:28-36). Yet in between these two events are the episodes described in vv.37-50. Luke includes them here, immediately prior to Jesus making his decisive move.

### **9:37-43a**

- What do you find a little disconcerting about this event?
- Jesus is actually quoting Deuteronomy 32:20 in v.41 How does this help us understand what's happening?
- What does it show us about Jesus disciples?
- How might this event contribute to Jesus' decision in v.51 to make plans for Jerusalem?

### **9:43b-45**

- The previous week Jesus had already spoken very strongly to his disciples about what must happen to the Christ (9:22). Why do you think Jesus chooses to once again bring this up at this moment having just quoted from Deuteronomy?
- The disciples can't understand what Jesus means about the very centrepiece of his mission. What does this show us about the part they play in Jesus mission? What does it show us of the responsibility Jesus must bear?

### **9:46-50**

- The disciples arguing with each other and questioning the legitimacy of someone else is quite revealing. What sort of men are they? What do you think is going on in their hearts to drive them to argue and question like this?
- Why does Jesus choose a child to demonstrate how greatness is so different in God's eyes?
  - *(Further: What is gained by welcoming and serving a child in the eyes of 'the great'?*  
*What is gained by welcoming and serving a child in the eyes of God?*
- How does this lesson contribute to our understanding of why it is so necessary for Jesus to set his face to Jerusalem?

### **9:51**

- Our series started in chapter 4 with Jesus being led into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan whom he overcame (4:1). Now Jesus heads to Jerusalem to face death, which he will also overcome. And only he can do it.
  - Given we are also part of a faithless and twisted generation, how are we to be moved by what Luke is revealing to us about Jesus?
  - Greatness in this world is measured so often by what we can achieve in the eyes of others, how does Jesus change all this for us?
  - As Jesus sets his face towards Jerusalem, Luke longs to direct ours towards this Jesus whom we need so much. What is one example of how your self-sufficiency can be a distraction from the need you have in Christ?

### **Prayers:**

- Spend time in prayer for one another that we'd know and express our dependence upon Christ in humble thanks.