

Vs 37: The swineherds spread the news – the people gathered

The people's response was **panic** - fear before the naked Power of God in Jesus (**DUNAMIS**)  
The Gentiles will come to fear the **"Son of the Most High"** in the true sense, after Calvary

Right now, they are upset at the loss of the pigs! - **loss of income!**  
**They don't know the value of the pearl of Great price yet** Cf. Mt 13: 45-46  
What is the worth of a man's redemption? Is he **worth** a large herd of pigs?

**The Man** This Gentile is **the first whose weeping is now blessed** (6:21)  
This Gentile is the first **to ask to become a disciple** (8:39)  
This Gentile is the first **of millions of prodigals** to recover and return to the  
Father's House because of Jesus' Love.

**The People** asked Jesus **to leave** their territory... and **he did!**

**Result?**

- Now they have no demons, no demoniac, no pigs **and NO SAVIOUR!**
- they are in grave spiritual danger! **They are the empty house**  
Cf. Mt 12:43-45 Lk 11:24-26

**Final Scene:**

- The rejected Saviour sends a **Missionary** to the Gentiles to help them understand: (8:38-39)
- **this man becomes the first Gentile Missionary!** cf. Is 48:10-12
- All he has to proclaim is **"Amazing Grace..."**

**THE JEWISH MISSION:** (8:40-56)

Having been rejected by the Gentiles, Jesus returned to Jewish territory to continue his mission there.

**Chapter 8 begins and ends with Jewish women whom Jesus healed of various ailments (8:1-3) and (8:40-56)**

**Here two women represent Israel's condition before God:**

- a) An older woman, sick for 12 years, has tried everything and **"spent all she had on doctors but no one could cure her"** Mt 5:26
- b) A 12-year old girl about to die. Her father is an official of the Synagogue and is helpless. Jesus will raise her from the dead even if the Elders – here represented by the parents – do not believe or cooperate.
- c) **Notice the 12:** it represents Israel and it's 12 tribes

In **both** of these stories – which the Synoptics all combine into one – we are told that:

- a) Israel's troubles cannot be healed until she comes humbly to her Saviour and puts her faith and trust in him.
  - b) Israel is so sick, spiritually, that she is close to death, but there is no need to despair **because her Saviour is here.**
    - He can raise the dead, both physically and spiritually Cf. Jn 5:25-29
- 1) The woman with the haemorrhage is **unclean** according to Lev 15:19-27
    - if she touches Jesus, he incurs uncleanness according to the Law
  - 2) To touch a dead body incurs uncleanness

\* Jesus will pay for Israel's salvation **ON THE CROSS** when the sins of the Nation and the world make **him** unclean in God's sight and he must pay for the cleansing of his brothers and sisters. Cf. 2 Cor 5:21

**TO TOUCH JESUS:** 8:44 The woman touched the fringe of Jesus' cloak – **her touch was FAITH and HOPE in Jesus.**

Jesus' love healed her: 8:46. The woman came in fear and joy to confess to Jesus, in front of everyone

- Her fear was rejection from the crowd at her uncleanness
- Her joy was the knowledge of New Life from Jesus.

8:48 She received affirmation and confirmation from Jesus

8:45 The crowd denied that **they** had touched Jesus. No power or New Life went out **to them**.  
**Their tragedy was to be physically NEAR Jesus but not to benefit from his presence at all!**

Peter and the disciples misunderstood also (8:45).

They will learn in the future **how to touch Jesus** spiritually.

**Jairus:**

leader of Synagogue, represents Jewish leadership. They allowed Jesus to heal – even their own families, but they did not **believe in him as Messiah or Saviour**

- They do not **have** love for or trust in Jesus, so they give up easily (8:4-15)
- Even though they witness faith and trust in **others** they are unaffected by it. It was only **desperation** that made Jairus go to Jesus in the first place (8:41)
- When the miracle of resurrection is given, Jairus **says nothing**
  - there was no praise or thanks to God ... **or testimony to the people...**
  - Jesus ordered them to tell no-one about it **because** someone who does not **believe** in him **cannot** proclaim him! They could never tell anyone else **who he was!**

(NB) This reflects the unbelief of the Jews up to, **and** including the Resurrection of Jesus. Hence they could not **proclaim** him to the Gentiles.

- it is the **healed and freed Gentiles** who proclaim Jesus! Lk 8:38-39

(NB) Even though Jesus ate and drank with the Apostles after the Resurrection, it still did not make the Jews believe in him. Lk 24:42-43

**Finally:**

Peter, John and James are the 3 witnesses chosen to be **with Jesus here**, on **Mt Tabor** and in **Gethsemane**... they would have to explain to others the mystery of Jesus' Death and Resurrection ... **they are the chosen 'chief witnesses'**.

**Note:** The other Gospels always refer to these three disciples as: **Peter, James and John**  
But, at the time of Luke's Church, James is already dead (died in 44 AD)  
so, Peter and John are the top witnesses to Jesus.

## **Stage 5: Chapter 9: 1-27**

**This is the last stage of the coming of the Lord: 9:51 begins "The Going back to the Father"**

**Stage 5** brings us to the climax of the Epiphany or manifestation of Jesus and answers the question: "Who is this Jesus of Nazareth?"

The two **central pieces** of text here: a) Confession of Peter  
b) Confession of The Father

a) **"You are the Christ".** b) **"You are my Beloved Son, My Chosen One"**

So, both Heaven and Earth have spoken ... **again!** Cf. Chap 1-3  
- through Peter, the Church, in anticipation, has spoken too.

**Stage 4** Concentrated on the Salvation of the individual.

**Stage 5** Prepares to take the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth...  
We begin with the choice of the Twelve... then the feeding of the multitude... and teaching the people.

**But** - Until Christ was crucified, God's plans for the Redemption of the world were part of **"the hidden Wisdom of God, which the rulers of the world were ignorant of":** 1 Cor 2:7-8  
- Jesus reveals the secrets of the Kingdom to the Twelve only, and sometimes to only 3 of those Twelve!  
Cf. 9:21, 36, 43-44

**SETTING UP OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**... as seen by Earth: 9:1-27

1.

- a) Briefing and sending out of the Twelve: 9:1-9
- b) What to do when received or rejected: 9:3-6
- c) Herod is perplexed regarding Jesus: 9:7-9

2. **Feeding of 5,000: 9:10-17:** disciples told to feed them but they cannot do it... Jesus does

3. **Confession of Jesus as Messiah:** 9:18-27

- (i) The crowds identify Jesus with John the Baptist, Elijah... 9:18-20
- (ii) Peter declares Jesus the Messiah: 9:18-20
- (iii) Followed by the first announcement of Jesus Passion: 9:21-27

**Setting up of Kingdom of God** ... as seen by Heaven: 9:28-50

- a) Transfiguration of Jesus 9:28-36
- b) Healing of a father's only son: 9:37-43  
Disciples are asked to do this, but they cannot. Jesus does it.
- c) Further instruction for the 12: 9:43-50

## **Stage 5: The Coming**

### **THE MISSION OF (setting up) THE KINGDOM OF GOD: THE NEW ISRAEL**

- |       |   |             |
|-------|---|-------------|
| (i)   | Jesus already called the Foundational Twelve:   | 5:1 → 6:11  |
| (ii)  | “ “ laid the Foundational Teaching:   | 6:12 → 7:50 |
| (iii) | “ “ formed the Apostolic Community  | 8:1-56      |
| (iv)  | Now Jesus prepares them for <b><u>MISSION</u></b>                                     | 9:1-50      |
|       | • this Mission is intimately bound up with the identity and Mission of Jesus Himself: | 4:14-44     |

#### **First Unit:** 9:1-17

- Jesus empowers the Twelve for a Mission **like his own**.
- They are to **live like him**, depending on Providence.
- They were to feed the world with: 1) Bread of God's Word 2) Eucharist

#### **Second Unit:** 9:18-36

- The Church must know who Jesus is...
- The Church must accept The Cross.
- God will reveal Jesus fully to the Church...

#### **Third Unit:** 9:37-50

- The Church must **deal with evil** in the world.

Focus for Unit ONE is on **The Twelve**

Focus for Unit TWO is on **The Chosen three**, Peter, John and James

Focus for Unit THREE is on **The People** and their needs.

### **The Mission of the Twelve:** 9:1-6

- a) Jesus **gave** them authority over **ALL** devils and sickness
- **this was not a sign of sanctity in them**: they were only beginners
  - No! it was a visible sign of God's Mercy and his desire to **“set the captives free”**: 4:18
  - they would have to **use** this authority **AS HIS**, not **theirs**
- b) They were to take **nothing** with them. It was God's Business and He would take care of them.
- The disciples are to be the poor (materially), but rich (spiritually).
  - Besides, Jesus intended the **people** to take care of the Apostles' needs in terms of food, shelter and clothes and money... this was possible **with the Essenes living all over the country...**
    - This meant that everyone was ministering to everyone else ... maintaining equality of persons
    - The Apostles were to give their full attention to the Mission - Acts 6:2
  - Note that these demands are softened when the 72 are sent out in 10:4

- In Jesus' farewell discourse he reverses these orders 22:35-36  
**Why is this?** The Sacred Law of hospitality was **reliable in Israel**.  
 Most of the people would honour it Cf. Gen 18:2-8, 16  
 Gen 24:15-61 Judges 13:15 2 Kgs 4:10
- Hospitality was **not available in Gentile Territories** until the **Church** established itself.  
 Then Christian Missionaries could go out knowing that **other Christians** would take care of them:  
 Heb 13:2; 1 Pet 4:9; 3 Jn 5-8.
- Christian Leaders were not exempt from this ministry: 1 Tim 3:2 Tit 1:8  
 - to refuse is grounds for judgement cf. Mt 25:43
- **Hospitality to Strangers:** Rom 12:13; Heb 13:2 – **you may entertain Angels** – as Abraham did!

N.B. Jesus expected his disciples to enter a House of Hospitality as they would enter a Temple, since God travelled **with** them and the Blessed Trinity indwelt them.

**“where 2 or 3 gather, I am there with you”:** Mt 18:20

- The dust of that house, street or city only **became** soiled if they rejected the Gospel of Salvation.
- It is **in** this rejection that these people **place themselves** under the Judgement of God.
- Whereas, when the missionaries arrived ...the **Mercy of God** came with them...  
 ...and the **Healing Power of God**  
 ...and the **Power of Deliverance**
- The Missionaries came with so many spiritual gifts, there was no **need** to reject God or his Word of Life.

**Herod and Jesus:** 9:7-9: Jesus' identity is highlighted by Herod's perplexity.

- Those around Herod were thinking that Jesus was a **re-incarnation** of John the Baptist, Elijah or some **other** great person.  
 - unbelievers will accept a re-incarnation **but not the wonder of a resurrection!**
- **If Jesus is just a regurgitated past** then **you don't have to take him seriously in THE PRESENT**
- Herod's personal life-style was such that **the mystery of Jesus** would remain **just that**  
 - an inexplicable mystery. How sad!
- Herod's anxiety **to see Jesus now – and** during the Passion (23:8-12) - won't have any connection to **Salvation** – just curiosity.

**The Church is to Feed the World:** 9:10-17

**Nota Bene:** Deut 18:18 The Prophet-like-Moses is here.  
 Isaiah 25:6-9 Jesus fulfills the Scriptures  
 Lk 5:1-11 **The abundant Fish:** exterior growth of the Community  
 Lk 9:10-17 **The abundant Bread:** interior growth of the Community

**Context for the Miracle:** Luke places this miracle **in** or near the town of **Bethsaida**.

- The apostles have completed their first Missionary tour and are all excited about it.