

(1) **Earth's Witnesses:** 9:18:21:

- The Twelve and Jesus are praying together...
- The Holy Spirit gives Wisdom and Understanding...

- Worldlings like Herod (9:7-9) think Jesus is a re-incarnated prophet
- Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Peter (speaking on behalf of the Twelve) declares Jesus **"The Christ of God"**; 'Ha Massiach' (the Messiah): **Peter's moment of glory!** This will be revealed fully in the transfiguration.
- Only the Father can reveal the **TRUE IDENTITY** of His Son
Cf. Mt 11:27 Lk 1:32-35, 43, 68-74; 2:27-35; 3:21-22; Lk 9: 34-36; Lk 2:11-13

(2) **Jesus' witness:** (9:22-27) **What kind of Messiah is he?**

- The Nation expected a Military leader with earthly power – such as Satan had suggested in Chap 4:6-8, but which Jesus rejected.
- Jesus chose the **Way of the Cross**, the Way of Suffering to redeem us.
- Jesus is the **Suffering Servant of Yahweh**: 4 Servant Songs of Isaiah, Ps 22/23
His Death and Resurrection will finally reveal him to be Son of God / Saviour of all the World

a) **Jesus' Church** must be a suffering servant also, since we are the Mystical Body of Christ: 9:23-26

- If she lives on the level of the world / flesh → she loses the Kingdom of God
- If she sacrifices herself for Kingdom of God – she gains the Kingdom of God
- To deny Jesus during persecution is a grave error.

The Father Reveals His Son: 9:28-36 *Luke's full and final manifestation of who Jesus truly is*

- This is the Christian Sinai, where God reveals Himself directly to Peter, John and James and tells them **WHO JESUS** is. Cf. 2 Pet 1:16-18
 - Ps 104:2 describes God as **"wrapped in a robe of Light"**
 - During prayer Jesus is transformed into Light: 9:29
 - This recalls the Heavenly revelation at Jesus' Baptism: 3:21-22
- The three Apostolic witnesses are taken up into this heavenly experience where God reveals Himself directly to them, and they **have their first vision** of Moses & Elijah: 9:34-35
- Jewish Tradition held that both Moses & Elijah – who had been assumed into Heaven – were to return before **Yom Yahweh – the great day of the Lord!**
- They returned together during this revelation on the mountain!
- The Apostles must allow Jesus **go to his Exodus in the P/D/R** while they went on to theirs...
- Combining the Transfiguration with the revelation of the Passion means that Luke declares Jesus' Divine Sonship and also that he is the Suffering Servant of Isaiah.
- Only God Himself can reveal this to us, and **He does so in prayer** ... as He did here.

9:30-31 Moses and Elijah represent the Law and Prophets: Two **great** witnesses of Old Testament among **“a cloud of witnesses”**: Heb 12:1

- Moses gave Israel its **first EXODUS** – he now sees it as a prophetic pointer to the **real exodus that Jesus** will accomplish in Jerusalem when he, himself **becomes THE PASCHAL LAMB**, sacrificed for the sins of the world.

9:32 Though battling with sleep Peter, John and James saw the apparition and saw Jesus’ future glory as The Lamb. They will sleep in Gethsemane also, and miss the moment when Jesus gives **his final Fiat to God to become The Lamb...**

9:33 **Peter’s wrong response** comes **from his sleepiness** – lack of attention to God’s Presence. He should have prayed and stayed quiet!

He was tempted to put Moses / Elijah in the **same level** as the Son of God and Saviour of All the World!
-The Lamb of God, come and take away the sins of the world!

9:34-36 **The Father intervenes** to reveal His Son to the Church

- He is the Son of God – the Chosen Messiah
- From now on they are to **forget** Moses and Elijah and **LISTEN** to **Jesus, who is Word of God, Revelation of God, Messiah of God, Lamb of God, Mercy of God, Love of God** Personified in their midst.

vs 36 They found Jesus alone – the glory gone – the horror of the Passion coming, the Sacrifice in readiness, the Church on its knees in adoration.

N.B. This silenced them!

Problems in the Mission: The Future Looms: 9:37-50

Even the experience of the Transfiguration didn’t change the **thinking of the Apostles**.

Luke wants the reader to understand that **the source of the Church’s power over evil** comes from the P/D/R of Jesus: 24:19-21,26.

Later the Apostles and other disciples will understand: 24:45. Now it is hidden: 9:45

It is the Power of the Cross which must be revealed to them ... to transform them.

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| 1. The healing of a father’s only son | 9:37-43 |
| 2. The Passion comes | 9:44-45 |
| 3. Worldly thinking blocks the way | 9:46-48 |
| 4. Using the Name of Jesus | 9:49-50 |

1. **The Epileptic Demonic:** 9:37-43 Note the following!

- a) Jesus has just been declared **THE FATHER’S ONLY SON** on the Mountain: 9:36 – the **CHOSEN ONE**
- b) Now he meets an Israelite whose **only son** is demon-possessed: 9:38.
- c) Jesus is very distressed to see the state God’s People have fallen into: Cf. Deut 35:5-20
Cf. Num 14:27; Ex 32

- Children don't come under demonic influence unless the adults have gone astray from God... this nation has gone astray spiritually.
- At Nain (7:11-17) Israel was spiritually dead; it is much worse to be demon possessed!

N.B. The Father's only Son went into battle with Satan in the wilderness and will have his final confrontation during Passover. He – Jesus – will go into Hell to snatch the **sons of God** out of it.

9:42 Jesus **"gave him back to his father"**
Remember 7:16 where Jesus gave an **only son** **"back to his mother"**.
It is the Mystery of the Resurrection that will **give Jesus back to His Father too** – in glory forever.
Also, the newly redeemed people will be given back to God – their true Father (origin).

9:43 Everyone was awestruck at the Victory of Jesus over evil.
This will be even more true after the Resurrection.

Application to the Church's Mission: The disciples were given power over evil spirits: 9:1-2

- They do not realise yet that they will have to **go into battle** against evil in their own lives, in the Church, and then in the world.
- They need to understand the deeper meaning of **evil /salvation**
- Jesus' Presence & Authority is greater than Satan & his destructive 'mission': 4:34-35 etc
- They must **obey God, the Father, and "listen to Jesus"** 9:36
- It would be terrible if Jesus' judgement on disciples today in the 3rd millennium was: **"Faithless and perverse generation"!!** 9:40
- **that** would constitute a real failure in Mission.

Where does the power over evil come from? **The Passion:** 9:44-45

- The real victory over evil comes through the Power of the Cross: 9:24; Cf. Sir 2:23.
Jesus was to be **"handed over into the power of men":** Cf. 9:24
- It is the Resurrection that **gives** them understanding: 24:45

WHO IS THE GREATEST?! 9:46-50

This is **wrong thinking:** This is a huge block to understanding Jesus as The Lamb of God for Sacrifice.

- They need **"a revolution in their thinking"** to be able **to take on the mind of Christ:**
Col 2:18 Rom 1:21 esp. Eph. 4:23
- Humility and selflessness will give them understanding of many things later on.
- Titles, position, status and power remained a problem in the Church among leaders: 22:24-27
- even in the Eucharist cf. 1 Cor 10-11

49-50 Disunity among believers remained a problem also. Cf. Lk 11:23; 19:13

Notice The failure of disciples **because** of these problems.

(1) they fail to understand how to feed the people in 9:13

- (2) the fail to understand how to **free** the people from evil in 9:40
(3) Why? They have not dealt with the 'self' yet! **They have to die to self to rise to Divine Love.**

THE GOING BACK TO THE FATHER

THE CHRISTIAN EXODUS BEGINS: (9:51 – end)

The Exodus Journey Begins: 9:31 showed Moses and Elijah discussing this great event of Salvation.

- Jesus has gathered his people in Chapters 3-9.
- He has been revealed to them. They have accepted that he is the Messiah, the prophet-like-Moses Deut 18:18; Heb 2:10

Now he resolutely begins the Journey through time and out-of-time into Eternity: 9:51-24:53

The **NEW MOSES** leads his people along **THE SACRED WAY** of Salvation: Isaiah 53:8
The healing Ministry is mostly **over**. Jesus concentrates on **TEACHING** and **ENLIGHTENMENT**.

24:46 This is also the **Journey** of the **Church** through History into Eternity.
Members of the Church are **followers of The Way**: Acts 9:2

Both for Jesus and the Church – his disciples – the future **DESTINY** is **glory in the Presence of God** and the Angelic Hosts. **Jesus brings his family home to the Father's House.**

In the Gospel the Church looks back to find her inspiration and direction from Jesus, her Lord, Head, and Model. She is drawn to persevere in the Mission by the glory that becomes her. Cf. **Phil 3:12-16**

This Journey is **not geographical but spiritual**: This journey from Galilee is not actually going **to** Jerusalem but **through** Jerusalem to **the Cross... the Tomb... the Resurrection / Ascension / Glory**

- Jerusalem was the **launching pad** into glory - symbol of Ascension
- There were many diversions along the way – just as each one of us takes detours from the path every now and then.
- Cf. Mt Tabor: 14 hairpin bends to the top. It doesn't seem that **you are going up** at all!!

There is a new sense of the shortness of time in this journey; **Tempus Fugit!** (time flies!)
Jesus is in a hurry to redeem us.

The church learns to take this energy from Jesus to persevere in carrying out her mission to preach, teach and heal ... until her own martyrdom and entry into Glory.

Jesus challenged his followers **to follow him** Cf. Mk 8:34/10:52,
So, the journey to Jerusalem **is a roadmap!**

This is **walking with God!** Because Jesus has been fully revealed in his Transfiguration, they **know** that they are walking with God!

Luke prepared us for this first, in the Infancy Gospel: 2:41-51 ... then in his presentation of the Mission: 4:30, 42-43 ... now finally in the Transfiguration (9:31) ... he has also given us two predictions of the Passion: 9:22,44

NB: Up to now *the meaning of these events* was hidden: 2:50; 9:45 ... but this journey describes the process through which the meaning of these was revealed ... later Paul's Missionary journeys from Jerusalem to Rome provide the paradigm for the Church: Acts 19-28

Why did Jesus have to go TO Jerusalem?

- (1) The city of God had been favoured by many prophets and holy men sent by God to help His Beloved City and people.
But Jerusalem had killed the prophets and stoned those who were sent to her: 13:34-35
- (2) Jerusalem was the capital city of the Nation. It was also the **SEAT** of the **Kings** of Judah – who were the ancestors and prototypes of the Messiah. Jesus was the rightful Heir to this Throne.
- **it was his city as Messiah and David, the King:** 1:33-34; 68-74; 2:4, 10-15; 19:41-44 Cf. Zec 9:9
- (3) Jerusalem was the heart of Israel's faith. God set His **throne** there, in the Temple.
- (4) As the Father's only Son, it was **Jesus' House**.
So, he **had** to present himself in Jerusalem **to claim His City, His Throne and His House.**

But what will He find there? The Saviour had to expose and deal with human sin if he was **TO SAVE**.

- In Jerusalem he would find the **DARKEST** form of rebellion against God – not open rebellion of decent enemies and opponents...
- No! he will find **rebellion hidden behind Religious Garb** among people who professed to be the most religiously enlightened on Earth.
- 13:33: this meant that he, too, would die in Jerusalem!

Divine Wisdom and love had decided to turn the brutal murder of the Messiah into the **ATONING SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST** – thus making Redemption possible for Israel and the world.

STAGE ONE OF THE GOING: 9:57 → 10:37

Unit 1 : The costs and sorrows of the Journey 9:51 – 10:16

Unit 2 : The joys and triumphs of the Journey 10:17 – 10:37

Unit 1 at the beginning of the journey there are frequent references to the **fact** that the great Exodus has begun: (9:51, 57 and 10:1)

Unit 2 has 3 paragraphs that don't mention a journey at all! 10:17, 21, 23
this unit finishes with the parable of the Good Samaritan – which is **all** about journeys:

- a) The Priest and Levite journey to Jerusalem
- b) The injured Jew was journeying to Jericho... right road but in the wrong direction!
- c) The Samaritan was journeying to Jerusalem with a return trip!

Unit 1 begins with the Samaritans in a negative context.

Unit 2 finishes with the Samaritans in a positive context.