

Stage 5: The Coming

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

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|-------|---|-------------|
| (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 <u>MISSION</u> | 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.

- Jesus calls them to prayer, rest and silence: “... **they could be by themselves**”
- But (9:11) the crowds are excited too! **Expectancy of an intervention of God** has grown in them and they want more and more...
- Jesus, the Redeemer, welcomed them and fed them the **Manna OF God’s Word** for a **long** time. This Food prepares us for the Bread of the Eucharist...

9:12 The Apostles intervene : **Its late:** send the people home!
: They need lodgings and food

- **Jesus waited for their intervention** – waited **for them** to **care enough** – to do something about the needs of the people, spiritually and temporarily: Cf. Acts

9:13: SHOCK! Jesus said “Feed them yourselves”! **This miracle prepares for the Eucharist.**
The apostles are told to feed the people even though they might have no food themselves!
They are to provide 3 breads:

- a) The bread for the body: 9:15-16
- b) The bread of the Word: 9:11
- c) And the bread of the Spirit in the holy Eucharist – symbolised & prepared by this event

In 9:1 Jesus gave them authority and power, but they don’t understand the nature of their Mission yet.
Jesus **will now demonstrate it** to them.

- 1) They must **gather** God’s People in the **Great Assembly** – not send them away to fend for themselves!
- 2) They are **to feed** the Great Assembly with the two Great Foods of God’s Word and God’s Eucharist.
Great Assembly = Ecclesia = church

Total Misunderstanding: The apostles are thinking of bread **for the body** and the **worlds’** coins to buy it.

- Jesus wants to show them that **God alone is the source of New Life**
- And that **Jesus alone** is not only the **Source** of the Eucharist: **He is Eucharist.**

The Congregation: 5,000 **men** - Gift of Eucharist to Israel: 5 X 10 cubed; 5 represents the Pentateuch: The Word

- They were to sit in parties of 50; small communities like these represent the **whole Church.**

The Food: 5 loaves: food of God’s Word

2 fish: symbol of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour; **the “ICTHUS” sign of the early Christians**

5 + 2 = 7, the perfect Covenant Food of Eucharist; this means God’s Highest and Best

The Lord is our Provider: Yahweh Jireh!

- a) Jesus created the miracle
- b) The apostles **distributed** the largesse of God. **[The Eucharist is God’s power, not theirs]**
- c) Everyone ate as much as they wanted, because spiritual hunger differs from person to person

12 Baskets of left-overs: enough to feed the Nation; 12 represents the 12 Tribes of Israel.

* Luke gave us **the abundant Fish in chapter 5, at the time of their call**

* This is the abundant Bread from Heaven in chapter 9, **the time for Mission.** cf. Jn 6

***Live-giving Poverty:** The apostles are to live in radical poverty (9:1-6) and **this** poverty is to make them prodigal in generosity to God's People.

Why? Because the Food they are to feed the church with is **spiritual**, and **God is its Source**. It takes **nothing** from Earth.

- Jesus, Word and Bread is the Food of the New Israel fulfilling Isaiah 25: 6-9

THE IDENTITY OF JESUS REVEALED: 9:18-36

<i>Jesus' Identity In Luke So Far: Chap 1-9</i>			
1)	Angel Gabriel:	Son of Most High; David's rightful heir; Son of God; will rule House of Jacob forever	1:32-36
2)	Zechariah:	A Power for Salvation in House of David The Rising Sun coming to visit us	1:69 1:78
3)	Angels at Birth:	A Saviour from House of David He is Christ the Lord	} 2:11
4)	Simeon:	The Salvation God prepared for all nations A Light to enlighten the pagans The Glory of Israel A sign that is rejected	
5)	John the Baptist:	He will Baptise you with Holy Spirit and fire! He is more powerful than I am... not fit to untie his shoe He will bring Judgement on God's Chosen People	} 3:15-18
6)	The devils:	You are the Holy one of God You are the Son of God	
7)	Luke, the Author:	The Power of the Lord	5:17
		Master of the Sabbath	6:5
		When The Lord saw her...	7:13
		Son of Man	7:34
8)	The devils again:	Son of the Most High God	8:28
9)	Peter:	The Christ of God [Messiah]	9:21
10)	God the Father:	At his Baptism: You are my Beloved Son	3:22
		At Transfiguration: This is My Son, the Chosen One	9:36

- It is vital for us to know for certain who Jesus is **because** the rest of the Gospel depends on it!
- Luke has already demonstrated that we come to understand Jesus **through / in prayer**
- JB discovered who he was while Jesus was praying after his Baptism: 3:21-22
- The Apostles discover it while Jesus is praying on the Mountain in 9:28
- Luke now gives us three major witness events – **so, we should be in prayer also!**

- (1) Earth's witnesses: 9:18-21
- (2) Jesus' Witness: 9:22-27
- (3) Heaven's Witness: 9:28-36

(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