

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.

## Unit I The costs and sorrows of the Journey to Glory: 9:51-56

9:51 states the goal of the journey clearly **“to be taken up to Heaven”**

So, this journey through Time has its goal **OUT-OF-TIME**

- This is the **JOURNEY**, not only **TOWARDS GOD**, but **INTO** God
- This is the Human Race, following the **NEW ADAM** **back to its source** in the Blessed Trinity.  
This is the Christian Road-Map.
- Jesus is the New Moses, who leads his people on this Exodus Journey.

**9:52** Jesus sent messengers ahead of him to prepare the way for his coming.  
They are now doing what John the Baptist did before Jesus began his work, but JB prepared for the First Advent of the Messiah, so he could speak of judgement: 3:16-17

The Apostles are to prepare the people for Redemption so, **their job was not apocalyptic Judgement!**

Stage one led through Samaria, which was hostile to the Jews, particularly if pilgrims were going to Jerusalem. This was because the Jews refused to allow the Samaritans to go to the Temple even though they allowed the Gentiles to pray in its outer Courts.

### **The fire Jesus wanted to bring after his Ascension - Pentecost was the Fire of Love: (3:16; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:3-4)**

The irony was that Jesus was going to Jerusalem to be rejected by its religious authorities of Judaism and to die for their redemption: 9:22; 44-45. Jesus humbly went on to the next village! 10:56

Jesus didn't reject the Samaritans for their rejection of him – **he was their Saviour also!**

Later, in Acts 8:4-25 Samaria will receive the Word of God!

Afterwards they would overcome their long antipathy to the Jews, treating them as true neighbours – **reflected in the parable** of The Good Samaritan: 10:30-37!

**9:55** James and John – the ‘sons of thunder’ (Mk 3:17) thought they had the right – like Elijah in the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC – to call down the Fire of Judgement upon the Samaritans!

Luke shows us here just how **we can misunderstand** the power God gives to us!

Jesus merely rebuked his novices, as he was going to Jerusalem **TO DIE for** them and to take the Fire of Judgement upon Himself.

Afterwards, he would send the Fire of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to empower the Church with God's Love!

**BUT**, in the future, { **The Lord's definitive (Second) coming!**  
**At this stage the Journey will have reached the ends of the Earth: Acts 1:6-8**  
at the **LAST JUDGEMENT** some **will** experience the Fiery Judgement of God.

**Why?** Jesus will have **paid** the price for their Salvation - and notwithstanding God's Infinite Mercy and Love **they have rejected the grace given to them:** 10:13-16

**HARDSHIPS OF THE JOURNEY FOR DISCIPLES:** 9:57-62: Lessons for all of us.

The lesson for James and John is to accept **the Cross!** They must not retaliate when the world shows hostility – otherwise they cannot be instruments of salvation.

**3 Examples are now given:**

On this journey Jesus **does not accept everyone** who offers to follow him! **He now gives discernment** as he reads the secret motivations of would-be disciples:

- **The first man** (9:57-58) is told to give up the comforts of home and security because the Son of Man is rejected by the World **and** by Religious Authorities: 2:34-35; 9:22, 44
- **The second man** (9:59-60) is told to break from former responsibilities and past relationships and commit himself completely to Christ... 'leave to cleave' Cf. Genesis 2:24  
→ He is told to "leave the (spiritually) dead to bury the (physically) dead"  
Leave the world to look after its own...  
Become Spiritual and **Learn to be part of the Solution** to humanity's problems.
- **The third man** (9:61-62) is told to make a clear choice. Anyone who has not made a radical renunciation of the world is **no use** to the Mission or the Kingdom of God.

**The Missionary Journeys of the Seventy:** 10:1-16 (70 or 72)

**There are two levels:** (1) the time of Christ (2) the time of the Church

- The creation of the **70 Elders** reminds us that this is the Exodus Journey. **Num 11:16-25** deals with Moses' election of the 70. These men were given **a share** of the Spirit given to Moses, and a share in his mission.
- Consequently, they would share the burden of leading the people...
- **These men** are the beginning of leadership **under the Twelve:** Acts 14:22-23
- Like Jesus and the Apostles, they, too, are endowed with the Holy Spirit to continue the Mission throughout the ages: Cf. Acts 6
- 70 was also the number of the Sanhedrin ∴ **recognisable leadership**

**Partnerships of Two:** 10:1-16: Jesus sent 36 pairs of men into the whole countryside –

**This was a blitz campaign** that roused the Nation to recognise that the Messiah had come!

- They were also commissioned to **PRAY** for more workers in the Vineyard so that the Lord's witnesses would go to the Ends of the Earth.
- Jesus gave no special training to the Seventy. **If they were Essenes**, then they have been preparing the people for the Messiah for a long time...
- Now, **all they have to proclaim is:** The Messiah is here! He is ... you will find him in Galilee, Jerusalem...
- Yet, they do have a message of Judgement if Israel refuses the New Life – given in Lk 10:12-14!

## Jesus' Teaching concerning the future Mission: 10:2-12

- They will operate in a hostile world – so, they couldn't afford to be judgemental! 9:56
- Jesus sent them out "like lambs among wolves" - they had left the world and its deceitful ways.
- They had cleaned up their lives and were trying to **live LOVE**, but they had to work among those still governed by "the Prince of this world" so, would be up against hatred, lies, deceit, dishonesty and all that represented a **LOST world** that desperately needed a Saviour.
- Missionaries represent Jesus throughout history; to hear or 'reject' them is to hear or reject Jesus!
- Demons had been subjected to Jesus – now they are subjected to his disciples: 10:17 who speak in his Name and act on his authority: 10:19
- The mysteries of the K.O.G are revealed to the humble and lowly – like children: 9:46-48; 10:21-22. God reveals His Son to them.
- By contrast with Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum: 10:13-15
- The 70 are truly blessed **for they see the Messiah!** 10:23-24.

## Rejection of Christian Missionaries: very serious in God's sight: 10:13-16

God has sent only **ONE** Saviour. To reject him is to reject Salvation: Cf. 9:56; 17:29

- Jesus pronounces a "woe" to towns and cities that had received his healing ministry, but refused **to repent** and change their ways...

**They are the bad soils**, which did not receive the seed of God's Word: 6:46-49); 8:21  
Therefore, they are **NOT** Jesus' "brothers".

- The 'woe' anticipates their future rejection by the Jews and acceptance by the Gentiles – this sets the stage for the parable of the Good Samaritan in 10:29-37

**Instruction for Mission Work:** **NO** worldly provisions. God's Providence in a culture of hospitality  
Be resolute (no delays for chatting)

- Be conscious of being God's Ambassadors: Cf. 2 Cor 5:20, who bring God's **PEACE**. **SHALOM** = all messianic blessings)
- If the Peace is rejected it will return to **you**: **you** are at no loss.

**Accept hospitality as given:** poor house, poor conditions / rich house, rich conditions  
"eat what is put before you" – don't worry about religious food regulations

**Message** : Give healing to sick

: Give message of Kingdom of God is **near**, now: **Jesus is coming!**

Wake up their expectation... their faith and their hope.

## Unit 2 **The joys and triumphs of the Journey: (10:17-37)**

- Looked at from the earth's perspective, the Journey is full of sorrow and difficulty. **Seen from Heaven's vantage point**, the **same** Journey is quite different. It is **Love conquering the earth.**

### **FIRST REASON TO REJOICE:**

As Love conquers the Earth and takes the Redeemed to Glory, a corresponding event happens: **"Satan falls like lightning from heaven"** Satan loses his grip on the world and his claim to **Rule** it... Cf. Rev 12:9

**NB:** In dealing with evil on the Earth, evil loses its grip in the Spiritual Realm.

- ∴ The Church has a vital role to play as **salt of the earth**.  
The future is described in: 1 Pet 3:22; Eph. 1:20-22; Phil 2:6-11

**NB: The church is involved in Heaven's war against Satan and Hell:** Cf. Eph. 6:12; Rom 16:20

- ∴ we can see how important it was for Jesus **to give authority** to church leaders **to speak in His Name** (10:17) and **to act with authority in his name** (10:19)

- nothing would hurt them (10:19) if they remain in Union with God

**BUT** pride (Satan's sting) **could** hurt them: Humility will save them (10:20)

### **SECOND REASON TO REJOICE:** 10:20-21

Disciples are the privileged "little ones" to whom the mysteries of the Kingdom have been revealed.

- They were the privileged sons of the Father - who revealed His Son to them.
- God didn't need the great intellects of the world when the most profound mysteries could be **received by the pure in heart**, the humble, little ones.

Jesus will train them himself, in the Ways of the Spirit and **they** will end up 'giants' because of him.

### **THIRD CAUSE OF REJOICING:** 10:23-24

- a) In contrast to the Scribes and Pharisees who were blind as to who Jesus was ... and to the vacillating crowds who could not make up their minds to accept His Word and repent: 10:13-15 - these disciples are indeed blessed!
- b) When compared to the generations that went before them - who lived and died without seeing the Messiah or the fulfillment of the Scriptures - **they are very blessed:** 2:29-32; 1 Pet 1:15; 1 Jn 1:1-4

What they are experiencing is: **Jesus is the Consummation of History ... He is its Climax**

### **PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN:** Love is the issue on the Journey to Heaven: 10:25-37

**Lawyer** : "what must I **do** to inherit eternal life?" Cf. 18:18 - Rich young man

**Jesus** : "What does the **Law** say?" Because the lawyer was **an expert in the Law!**