

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 13

Introduction

Luke and John's gospels devote more time to the final twelve months of Jesus' ministry than to the other two and a half years combined. His face is set—His eye is on the end—when He would return to the Father. Luke notes the determination that sets the tone for the remainder of the journey: "Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem (9:51).

When noting this same point in time, Mark underscored the fact that everything had changed. "Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: *Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again*" (10:32–34). The disciples were amazed and afraid! The sense of urgency was very present. As He had done so often before, Jesus took them aside to reveal His heart. Very soon He would be rejected and betrayed; but the disciples would receive the promise of the Holy Spirit, who would always remain with them.

Did you know

It is worth noting and remembering that what awaited Jesus was not easy for Him. He was deity in the flesh, but He was also a man; and what He would soon be facing was as painful and horrifying as it could be. Seven hundred years earlier, the prophet Isaiah wrote this about the Savior's suffering to accomplish our salvation: "The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD will help Me; therefore I will not be disgraced; therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed" (Isaiah 50:5–7).

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

Teaching / Event	Scripture Text	Parallel Passages
Jesus Turns toward Jerusalem	Luke 9:51	
Passes through Samaria	Luke 9:52–56	
Cost of Discipleship	Luke 9:57–62	
Jesus Teaches at the Temple	John 7:14–36	
Promise of the Holy Spirit	John 7:37–39	
Authorities Reject Jesus	John 7:45–52	

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: John 7:37b–38 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

. . . If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

Luke 9:51–56

Jesus Turns toward Jerusalem

51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up,

that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,

52 and sent messengers before His face. And as they went,

they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.

53 But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.

54 And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, ‘Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?’

55 But He turned and rebuked them, and said,

‘You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.

56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.’

And they went to another village.

Luke 9:57–62

Cost of Discipleship

57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him,

‘Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.’

58 And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests,

but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’

59 Then He said to another, ‘Follow Me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’

60 Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and

preach the kingdom of God.’

61 And another also said, ‘Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.’

62 But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back,

is fit for the kingdom of God.’

John 7:37–39

Promise of the Holy Spirit

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast,

Jesus stood and cried out, saying,

‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said,

out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’

39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit,

whom those believing in Him would receive;

for the Holy Spirit was not yet given,

because Jesus was not yet glorified.

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

Luke 9:51–56

Jesus Turns toward Jerusalem

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.

Application: How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

Luke 9:51–56

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Luke 9:57–62

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

John 7:37–39

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.
