



## 17. Luke 9:51–13:21

*Mary, Martha, and Jesus*

### Journey to Jerusalem 1

## Structure

- Duties and Privileges of Discipleship (9:51-10:24)
  - Mission of the Seventy (10:1-20)
- Characteristics of Disciples (10:25-11:13)
  - Parable of the Good Samaritan (10:29-37)
  - Mary and Martha (10:38-42)
  - Parable of the Friend at Midnight (11:5-8)
- Jesus Meets Further Opposition (11:14-54)
  - Hypocrisy of the Pharisees and Scribes (11:37-54)
- Discipleship, Preparation, and the Coming Crisis (12:1-13:21)
  - Parable of the Rich Fool (12:13-21)
  - Healing the Bent Woman on the Sabbath (13:10-17)
  - Parable of the Woman Mixing Dough (13:20-21)

## Duties and Privileges of Discipleship (9:51-10:24)

- Jesus and the Samaritan Village (9:51-56)
  - Contrast this with John's portrayal of the Samaritans (John 4)
  - *This is an important prelude to the Parable of the Good Samaritan in 10:29–37 because in addition to the historical and cultural antipathy between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus had personal reasons to be upset with Samaritans . . .*
  - Response of the James and John to the rejection, expectations of Elijah-experiences! (9:54)
  - The Son of Man came not to destroy but to save . . ." (9:55-56)
- Readiness for Discipleship (9:57-62)
  - **Lucan addition: "having put his hand to the plough . . ." (9:61-62)**
    - Cf. Elisha ploughing when Elijah extended the call (1 Kings 19:19-21)

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## Mission of the Seventy (10:1-20)

- Commission of the missionaries (10:1-16)
  - "After this **the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him (*apesteilen*)** in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go." (10:1 NRSV, be careful of "other seventy" in KJV)
    - Sometimes referred to as "seventy apostles," but apostle in a general sense of an authorized missionary sent out, not the specific priesthood office
  - 70 nations (Gen 10); 70 elders of Israel (Ex 24, Num 11)
  - "Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: **and salute no man by the way.**" (10:4, *implying an urgent journey*)
- Return of the missionaries (10:17-20)
  - Parallels return of the Twelve in 9:10

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## Illustrations of the Two Great Commandments (10:25–42)



- The Lawyer's Question (10:25–28)
  - The two great commandments . . . (Deut 6:5; Lev 19:18)
- Parable of the Good Samaritan (10:29–37): answer to the question, “Who is my neighbor?”
  - Priest and Levite were probably concerned about contracting ritual impurity
    - Jesus never had been worried about this in his healings!
  - Historical antipathy between Jews and Samaritans links this parable with the teaching of loving one's enemies
    - Interesting also given Jesus' recent rejection by Samaritans (see 9:51–56)
- Mary and Martha . . . How do we love God? (10:38–42)

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## Mary and Martha (10:38–42)

- Dramatic episode with teaching sayings
- Mary at the feet of Jesus . . . image of a student-disciple
- “Now Martha, who was distracted *with all the serving* . . .” (NJB 10:40)
  - *peri pollēn diakonian*: is *diakonian* about domestic service, the courses of the meal specifically, or service in general?
  - Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but *only one thing is needed*. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” (NIV 41–42)
  - Service is usually highlighted . . . what is meant here?
- *Be sure to interpret this parable in connection with the Parable of the Good Samaritan and particularly with the Two Great Commandments that precede*
  - *See also*: Bonnie D. Parkin, “Choosing Charity: That Good Part,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 104–106.

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## Teachings on Prayer (11:1-13; cf. Matthew 6:9-14)

- **The Lord's Prayer (Lucan version, 11:1-4)**
  - Sins rather than debts
  - Lacks the concluding doxology of Matt 6:13
- **Parable of the Friend at Midnight (11:5-8)**
  - [comparing like with like](#)
- **Encouragement to Pray (11:9-13)**
  - "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*"
  - [Comparing like with unlike](#) (cf. Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge, 18:1-8)

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## Jesus Meets Further Opposition (11:14-12:3)

- **Beelzebul Controversy (11:14-26)**
  - "But if I *with the finger of God* cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you." (KJV 11:20)
    - *Allusion to Ex 8:19*
- **True Blessedness (11:27-28)**
- **Sign of Jonah (11:29-32)**
- **Light and Darkness (11:33-36)**
  - *parable of the candlestick (11:33)* more familiar application
  - "Your eye is the lamp of your body. *If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light*; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness." (NRSV 11:34)

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## Hypocrisy of the Pharisees and Scribes (11:37-54)

- “But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and *pass over judgment and the love of God*: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.” (11:42, *woe saying*)
  - Classic prophetic indictment (e.g., Is 1:21-23; Amos 5:21-24; Mic 3:9-12)
- “Therefore also *said the wisdom of God*, I will send them prophets and apostles, and *some* of them they shall slay and persecute: That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; *From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias* [Zechariah], which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.”
  - *Zechariah of 2 Chr 24:19-32* – Abel the first martyr of the OT, Zechariah the last (Chronicles is last in the Hebrew Bible)
  - *Zacharias, father of John the Baptist* (TPJS, 261)
- Beware the leaven of the Pharisees (12:1-3)

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## Discipleship, Preparation, and the Coming Crisis (12:3-13:21)

- Exhortation to Fearless Confession (12:4-12)
- Earthly versus Heavenly Treasure
  - *Parable of the Rich Fool* (12:13-21)
  - Dependence upon the Lord (12:22-30; Q, cf. Matthew 6:25-30)
  - Seeking the Kingdom of God First (12:32-34; Q, cf. Matt 6:31-32)
- Preparedness for the Coming of the Son of Man (12:35-48)
  - *Parable of the Watchful Servants* (12:35-40)
    - the parable explained (12:41-48)
- The Time of Judgment (12:49-59)
  - Jesus brings divisions (12:49-53)
  - Signs of the times (13:54-57)
  - Parable of reconciling with one's adversary (13:58-59)
- Repent or Perish (13:1-9)

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## Two More Women in Luke . . .

- **Healing the Bent Woman on the Sabbath (13:10-17)**
  - “And when Jesus saw her, he called *her to him*, and said unto her, Woman, **thou art loosed from thine infirmity**. And he laid *his hands* on her: and **immediately she was made straight, and glorified God**.” (13:12-13)
  - This healing/controversy story illustrates **the true meaning of the Sabbath – liberation and worshiping God** (Ex 20:8-11; Deut 5:12-15)
- **Parables of Growth (13:18-32; Q, cf. Matt 13:31-33)**
  - The mustard seed (13:18-19)
  - The woman mixing dough (13:20-21)