

January 12, 2020

Luke 9

1Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Q. Exactly who did Jesus give power and authority over “all devils, and to cure diseases.”?

This discussion will no doubt be controversial; my only intent is to see what the Bible says about it and what renowned commentators understanding is on this issue. We will only touch the surface of this issue and have to drill down later for a more comprehensive look at the issue of using the Name of Jesus to deal with demons and heal today.

I have consulted about 6 Commentators at random and I believe 5 of the 6 agree on the issue of miracles in general and those listed specifically.

Benson, Calvary, Clark, Gill, Ellicott, and Pulpit Commentary all found in Biblehub.org.

It is generally thought by these commentators that this authority given by Jesus to His Disciples was only for a certain duration; the early Church founding. It was to be used as a proof of what

was being said and after the Church was solidly established and the disciples were gone so was the general authority given by Jesus to them.

The authority given them was over devils and healing of diseases in the Name of Jesus.

2And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Their mission from the Master, “preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.” Jesus gave them authority and the authority was the use of His Name when; dealing with illness and devils.

3And he said unto them, Take nothing for *your* journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.

Q. Why would Jesus want them to take nothing with them on their mission journey?

It appears that Jesus wanted them to NOT depend on anything than the power of God; humble, contrite, free from encumbrances of this world.

A stave was a staff, used for a variety of things from defense to and aid in walking. Scrip is interpreted as a bag or pouch for carrying money. Bread nor food and no money was to be taken

and lastly minimal clothing. The obvious austerity that was to be presented was for a specific purpose as explained previously.

4And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. **5**And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

Matthew 10:11 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.

Matthew's explanation is more specific in what direction Jesus gave the disciples as to how to select a place to stay in any given town. The home selected would be the place they stayed the entire time in whatever city they were in. The next verse is a dagger to the heart of any town either by individuals or corporately if the disciples were not welcomed with the message of Hope and Love.

There is was a tradition among the Hebrew Nation that if they had to go to a gentile nation for any reason, when they re-entered the boundary of the Hebrew Nation that they would stop and shake the dust off of their feet so as not to defile the Promised Land with the even the dust of the heathen nations. This tradition would be well known within Israel and if a city or a person saw a guest doing that upon leaving their home or city the meaning would be

clear; this person or city is unworthy of the Love of God for they have rejected the testimony of the Disciples.

Later in Acts this very thing happened to Paul and Barnabas;

Acts 13:50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. 51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

6 And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.

Jesus and His Disciples had just finished teaching in Galilee,

https://www.bible-history.com/map_jesus/

In order to have a visual reference as to the layout of the nation of Israel during this time let's look at a map.



1. Far to the north we can see Syrian Phoenicia (9) what today is; Lebanon and in Lebanon are the cities of Tyre and Sidon.
2. Just below that location is Galilee (3) and the Sea of Galilee, where a good deal of Jesus early ministry took place with great acceptance.
3. Below Galilee we see Samaria (16) where Jesus did a number of miracles but was rejected in a Syrian Village.

4. And still below that we find Judea (17/25) where the Crucifixion would take place in Jerusalem.

There is a detailed list of Jesus Ministry along with maps showing those locations;

<https://www.ccel.org/bible/phillips/CP051GOSPELMAPS.htm>

Herod becomes interested in the ministry of Jesus;



This map defines the area that Herod was Tetrach of.

7Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by him: and he was perplexed, because that it was said of some, that John was risen from the dead;

Strong's Concordance;

Transliteration: tetraarchés

Definition: a tetrarch (the governor of a fourth part of a region)

Fake news is nothing new, we see that rumors had run rampant in this area; the rumor was that John, whom Herod had beheaded, had risen from the dead. This of course would cause some fear in the heart of Herod. Rulers of that day were not strangers to attempted overthrows and deep state conspiracies were not unheard of. Herod's mind must have been filled with all kinds of concerns.

8And of some, that Elias had appeared; and of others, that one of the old prophets was risen again. **9**And Herod said, John have I beheaded: but who is this, of whom I hear such things? And he desired to see him.

Of course, it is hard to read the personal reaction that Herod was having and Luke reporting from others who were there given here, a pretty sanitized version of what was obviously to Herod and unsettling turn of events. Herod wanted to see this Jesus himself; and I am speculating here, to see for himself if this was indeed the man whom he had killed for his stepdaughter.

Jesus is still in the area of Capernaum when He sent out His disciples by two's. They have now completed their missionary journeys and hasten back to the Master to tell Him the results.

10And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

You can locate Bethsaida on a map just north of the Sea of Galilee and on the eastern side of the Jordan River.

This verse indicates that Jesus went to a “desert place” near a city called Bethsaida. It is a minor issue but needs to be explained for the simple reason that Bible detractors find little things that they say are not true and therefore the entire Bible is not true. In this cast the word “desert” comes into question. Luke was written in Greek and a good part of the Bible was written in Hebrew or Aramaic and interpreted into Latin. In Hebrew and Aramaic, the word for “desert” has two meanings; one a desolate place void of vegetation and trees; and two, a pasturing place with lush grass.

Archology first posed the question as to how Jesus would go to a desert place in the midst of a fertile valley well-watered and lush?

The answer is simple, unknown to the Latin interpreters of the Bible the double meaning of the word used for (desert). In this case Jesus did in fact go;

“into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.”

A beautiful lush pasture area just outside of the city of Bethsaida.

Below is an excerpt from a periodical called;

<https://www.jerusalemerspective.com/2796/>

“The Desert of Bethsaida”

Written by: [Mendel Nun \[1918-2010\]](#)

Mr. Nun was a Galilean fisherman who had written many articles during his life about the Sea of Galilee and the surround area.



MENDEL NURIN

The "Desert" of Bethsaida
(continued from page 17)

philologist Gustaf Dalman (d. 1941) suggested the Aramaic equivalent, *madbera debet sayda*. Today, "desert," coming to us from the Latin, means an uninhabited, uncultivated, barren, waterless and treeless region. But in the Hebrew and Aramaic of Jesus' time the word for "desert" had two meanings. One was the same as in modern usage. But the other

indicated a "pasturing place." The "midbar of a city" referred to the area of pasture for flocks belonging to the residents of a city. In my opinion, the translator who first rendered the word in Greek was not aware of this second meaning. Thus, references to "desert place" in the gospel accounts of the Feeding of the Five Thousand do not indicate a barren, waterless area, but the lush, grazing land surrounding Bethsaida. **JP**

Above:
Panorama taken from the slopes above the western side of the Bethsaida Valley (May 13, 1996).

Below:
The view southwest across the Bethsaida Valley from the top of et-Tell.



MENDEL NURIN

What Luke does not comment on is that when the disciples returned, they along with the disciples of John the Baptist brought news of John's beheading at the hands of Herod.

Remember, beyond the spiritual relationship that John the Baptist and Jesus had; they were 2nd cousins and would have known each other their entire lives.

Jesus took His disciples and entered a boat across the northern end of the Sea of Galilee to the eastern side of; where the Jordan River dumps into the Sea of Galilee. As was stated this area is lush green pastures on sloping hills with beautiful trees dispersed among the grassy hills. He and His disciples were obviously tired from their missionary work and being constantly asked for healings etc. To add to that the news that his second cousin had been killed by Herod was additional grief that He and His other two cousins had to bear. His other two first cousins were James and John the sons of thunder. James and John's mother was Salome and she was the sister of Mary, Jesus's mother, and Salome was the wife of Zebedee. That would then make James and John (the sons of thunder) the first cousins of Jesus.

There is no irrefutable proof that Jesus, James and John were first cousins but if you connect some dots the story seems to become clearer as to who Jesus was related to.

Matthew 4:21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, **James the son of Zebedee**, and **John his brother**, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

Matthew 27:56 Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, **and the mother of Zebedee's children.**

Mark 15:40 There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and **Salome;**

John 19:25 **25** Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, **and his mother's sister**, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene

Commentators assign this phrase “and his mother’s sister” as being Salome. There are no Biblical records of Mary, Jesus mother, having any brothers. There are indications that she did have a sister.

Smith's Bible Dictionary
Salome

(peaceful).

1. The wife of Zebedee, ([Matthew 27:56](#); [Mark 15:40](#)) and **probably sister of Mary the mother of Jesus**, to whom reference is made in ([John 19:25](#)) The only events recorded of Salome are that she preferred a request on behalf of her two sons for seats of honor in the kingdom of heaven, ([Matthew 20:20](#)) that she attended at the crucifixion of Jesus, ([Mark 15:40](#)) and that she visited his sepulchre. ([Mark 16:1](#)) She is mentioned by name on only the two latter occasions.

2. *ATS Bible Dictionary*
Salome

Wife of Zebedee, mother of James the elder and John the evangelist, one of those holy women of Galilee who attended our Savior in his journeys and ministered to him, Mt 20...20-23. Her conception as to the true nature of Christ's kingdom were no doubt changed by his crucifixion, which she witnessed "afar off," and by his resurrection, of which she was early apprized by the angels at the tomb, [Mark 15:40](#); [16:1](#). Some infer, from comparing [Matthew 27:56](#) and [John 19:25](#), that she was a sister of Mary the mother of Jesus.

3. *Easton's Bible Dictionary*
Perfect.

(1.) The wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John ([Matthew 27:56](#)), and probably the sister of Mary, the mother of our Lord ([John 19:25](#)). She sought for her sons places of honour in Christ's kingdom ([Matthew 20:20](#), 21; Comp. [19:28](#)). She witnessed the crucifixion ([Mark 15:40](#)), and was present with the other women at the sepulchre ([Matthew 27:56](#)).

To reorganize our thoughts Jesus has reunited with His disciples in Capernaum and enters a boat with His Disciples to go across the northern end of the Sea of Galilee to a "desert" place for some quiet time with His Disciples.

Luke 9:10..... a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

11And the people, when they knew *it*, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

If you look at a map you will see that the distance from Capernaum was not that far, they would simply walk along the shoreline, cross the Jordan River near Bethsaida and be in the same place that Jesus was going.

Jesus could not and would not turn away anyone seeking help. He spoke to them of the coming Kingdom of God and healed all those that needed healing, despite the exhaustion that He and His disciples felt, Jesus never quit.

12And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place.

The term “desert” as we have seen can have multiple meanings, we already know it can mean desolate dry or it can mean unpopulated but with lush grass pastures; one meaning we did not discuss is also from Strong’s Concordance;

*In Scripture, a "desert" ([2048](#) /érēmos) is ironically also where **God richly grants His presence and provision for those***

seeking Him. *The limitless Lord shows Himself strong in the "limiting" (difficult) scenes of life.*

Isn't this precisely what Jesus did; people sought Him, and He richly granted His presence and provisions?

13But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.

Jesus starts with the solution; man starts with the problem. Jesus said to feed them that was the solution to their being hungry. Man looks at the problem as it is maybe insurmountable and that is the disciples said the crowd needed lodging and food.

Part of the calculations the disciples made is that they have limited supplies; they would soon find out that through the power of God there is no such thing as shortage of supplies, only shortage of faith.

I am concerned that sometimes we have faith in things that God has not allowed or told us to have faith in. Our faith is to be in Him; with that said then our faith must be in His Will not our will. Too often there are pastors that are telling people to have faith that God will give them whatever they want? I believe God will give us whatever we want as long as it is in line with what He wants for us, in other words, HIS WILL for us in whatever matter

we are asking something of Him. Remember always Jesus request just before His arrest and crucifixion. I believe these are the hardest words Jesus spoken on earth. Likewise I believe these are the hardest words we can speak on this earth, to give up our will in things like life and death to give that to God and say, “Not my will be done but your Will Be Done Lord”. That is what making

*Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless **not my will, but thine, be done.***

14For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, Make them sit down by fifties in a company.

Why 50 and not 40 or 60?

From Biblestudy.org is this;

The Meaning of Numbers: The Number 50

The number 50 derives its meaning from its relationship to the coming of [God's Holy Spirit](#). Fifty can be found at least 154 times in the Bible.

After Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene on Sunday morning, April 9 in 30 A.D., [he ascended to the Father](#) in heaven (John 20:17). His ascension, as a type of firstfruit from the dead (Revelation 1:5), occurred on the day God told the Israelites they were to wave a sheaf composed of the firstfruits of their harvest (Leviticus 23:9 - 11). It is on this day that the count of 50 days to [the Feast of Pentecost](#) begins.

In the New Testament, the word Pentecost comes from the Greek word for fiftieth (Strong's Concordance #G4005). Also known as the Feast of Weeks or [Firstfruits](#), it was on this special Holy Day that God first poured his Holy Spirit upon about 120 believers who had gathered to keep the day (Acts 1:15, 2). They became the firstfruits of God's spiritual harvest of humans.

In short, the number 50 denotes fullness; it was used as a completeness of days or years both for the First Fruits offering and the 50 years or 50th year Jubilee, when all was to be returned in full to its rightful owner.

In the context of having them sit down in groups of 50 it would not be lost on those of Jewish ancestry what this meant. In the spiritual sense that was most likely not available to them at this moment, their hunger would be overcome with “fullness”; eat until they were full.

The spiritual sense behind the word “50” can be found in one of its first uses in the Bible;

Leviticus 25:10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

With 50 meaning “fullness” it was also associated with “liberty”.

According to the KJV Lexicon;

liberty

drowr (der-ore')

freedom; hence, spontaneity of outflow, and so clear -- liberty, pure.

Jesus is preparing these 5000 people to be a part of an astounding miracle. It will be dealt out in the physical but there is immense spiritual significance in what He is about to do on many levels.

15And they did so, and made them all sit down.

We start with obedience; simply to sit as the Lord has asked.

16Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.

Why 5 fishes and two loaves?

“Five is symbolic of God’s Grace”; you can search that out by looking at what numbers mean in the Bible.

“The number 2 conveys the meaning of a union, division or the verification of facts by witnesses.”

<https://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/2.html>

The numbers reflect God’s Grace and in Union. Combine them and you have seven. Combining into a meal was what was about

to happen so we can combine the two numbers 5 and 2 and we get 7;

“Seven is the number of completeness and [perfection](#) (both physical and spiritual). It derives much of its meaning from being tied directly to God's creation of all things.”

<https://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/2.html>

Why bread and fishes?

Bread is denoted from Strong's Concordance as;

740 *ártos* – properly, bread; (figuratively) **divine provision**; all the sustenance God supplies to yielded believers scene-by-scene to live in His preferred-will ([2307](#) /*thélēma*).

We often see Jesus use the term “Bread” when speaking of the Word, the Spiritual food that He has given to believers to feast on daily.

Even though the fish has no distinctive spiritual meaning it was used repeatedly by Christ as an example of the power of God over His creation. Before He selected His disciples some of them had been fishing all night with nothing to show for their efforts. Jesus told them to cast their nets in a certain place and the load nearly sank their boats; even the fish listen to God.

Jesus used a fish to provide a coin to pay the temple tax. Jesus after His resurrection met His disciples on the beach and

prepared them fish to eat. No the fish has no spiritual significance it is just a very obedient part of God's creation to help sustain man.

After taking the five loaves and two fishes Jesus first looks to the Father for everything He needs. Jesus demonstrates to the 5000 and His disciples to know where the power is from; it is from God our Father who is in Heaven.

Jesus used a simple means of asking God to bless what was to happen.

Strong's Concordance defines "bless"

Phonetic Spelling: (yoo-log-eh'-o)

Definition: to speak well of, praise

Jesus praised His Father at every turn of His ministry. He did so here in front of 5000 + people just before they became part of a miracle.

17And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

God's abundance of the eternal exceeds the need. Whatever we have need of within God's Will, His abundance of Love, Mercy and Grace the things that eternity are made of knows no bounds.

We are trapped by our physical needs and God helps there as well but the real goal are those things that have eternal value, not the temporal of this life.

Peter's Confession of Christ

(Matthew 16:13-20; Mark 8:27-30; John 6:66-71)

18And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?

Any interesting question from the Master of the Universe. Jesus could operate in two domains at once; the Spiritual and the Physical. All of those who were operating in the spiritual already knew who Jesus was; we had seen that when He confronted the devils in various people. They recognized Jesus immediately.

But the challenge was who in the physical did people think Jesus was. He was vague in revealing His identity up front, He wanted people to reason by means of what they saw and heard to determine who Jesus was.

19They answering said, John the Baptist; but some say, Elias; and others say, that one of the old prophets is risen again. 20He said unto them,

Undoubtedly the disciples had heard conversation about who the people thought Jesus was and most likely they were asked point

blank who Jesus was; but they had no definitive answer up until this point.

But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God.

Strong's Concordance gives this for the name "Christ"

Transliteration: Christos

Phonetic Spelling: (khris-tos')

Definition: the Anointed One, Messiah, Christ

Pretty much sums it up.

Jesus Predicts His Death

[\(Matthew 16:21-23; Mark 8:31-33\)](#)

21And he straitly charged them, and commanded *them* to tell no man that thing;

The answer was true but for God's own reasons, Jesus insisted that that Truth be kept a secret. The world would have not believed the disciples anyway, we can tell people even today that Jesus is the Son of God, the Christos, the Anointed one, the Messiah and what is their response?

Rejection, ambivalence, outright hatred. It is a Truth that so many men and women reject and teach their children to reject. They instead teach their children to put creature (mankind, the product of the Creator) before the creator, to worship the creature (mankind, the product of the Creator) instead of the creator.

Worshiping man and things before God.

Romans 1:25 [18](#)For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; [19](#)Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. [20](#)For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: [21](#)Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [22](#)Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, [23](#)And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

[24](#)Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: [25](#)Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

[22](#)Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

The reason Jesus needed them to be quite about His identity was that nothing could interfere with His ultimate mission here on earth. Jesus would have to suffer and be rejected by the Jewish Leadership and the world as a whole; Jesus would have to be killed as a lamb led to slaughter and He would defy death and raise to life eternal the first fruit of eternity born from mankind.

Take Up Your Cross

(Matthew 10:37-39; Matthew 16:24-28; Mark 8:34-38)

23And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Q. What is a 9 letter word that starts with O and describes what Christ is asking of us all?

Obedience

Q. Can you define the word Obedience?

Strong's Concordance;

Transliteration: shama

Phonetic Spelling: (shaw-mah')

Definition: **to hear**

There are over 65 associated words in the Bible that reference hearing; everything from listening to understanding.

God Himself interrupted Peter's babbling on the Mount of Transfiguration and said what to Peter and the disciples there?

*Matthew 17: [5](#)While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; **hear ye him.***

Hearing is not all there is to obedience, but obedience starts with listening; hearing, consuming, appropriating, understanding, embracing and acting or walking in what you hear.

January 22, 2020

[24](#)For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

To lose the fleshly life for the cause of Christ is to gain the Spiritual Life that He has promised. Replacing and eternal one for a temporal one. Not all Christians will be slain for their belief, but all Christians who abandon their idea of feeding the flesh will by reward receive the sustenance that the Spirit needs; let the flesh die to gain the Spiritual Life. I am not speaking of physically starving yourself lest anyone would mistake; but to give preference to the Spiritual eternal things in this life as opposed to those things that pull us away from Christ and the Truth.

It is indeed an abstract idea in the flesh and is impossible to understand. In the Spirit for the believer it is easily understood.

25For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

Again, an abstract idea for the world; who would not want to gain the whole world? The believer on the other hand would dismiss the whole world in an instant for the opportunity to spend an eternity of with our Lord and Master Jesus Christ because what He offers is so far beyond what this world offers, in Love, in Beauty, in Relationships, in Adventure, in Real Life.

26For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and *in his* Father's, and of the holy angels.

The advantage of hearing what Jesus had to say is not what most people yearn for. Most people want comfort, to be loved, to be admired, to live long prosperous lives wanting for nothing. For the Christian we come to the conclusion; we prefer God's Will in our lives in every aspect than to live our lives for ourselves. Not that we don't take care of our families because that is part of obedience to Jesus leading.

I am going outside my normal quoting from Bibleorg.com and quoting from the New International Version (NIV) for this scripture.

1 Timothy 5: 1Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as

brothers, 2older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

*3Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. 4But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to **put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.** 5The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. 6But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. 7Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. 8**Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.***

Even Christians live and walk through this life; and God has set priorities for how we walk out this life. One of the highest priorities is caring for our families. It is one of the commandments from Christ, that failing to take care of your family seems to put your faith in grave doubt. Disobedience can and will lead to sin and unrepentant sin leads to death, not just of the flesh but of the Spirit as well. Spiritual death is the absence of God in our lives and an eternity without Him.

27But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

As we consider this verse the first thing, we need to do is understand the term “death”. Strong’s Concordance from Biblestudy.org states this:

2288 *thánatos* (derived from [2348](#) /*thnéskō*, "to die") – physical or spiritual *death*; (figuratively) separation from the life (salvation) of God forever by dying without first experiencing *death to self* to receive His gift of salvation.

I am going to diverge from what a couple of commentators have concluded. As an aside it is interesting that many commentators do not comment on this verse at all, they simply leave it. I don't believe they leave it due to it being self-explanatory but due to it being hard to understand.

I think to understand this verse we need to establish an order of events. Jesus is now talking to only His disciples;

Luke 9:18 ***And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?***

They had left the 5000 and were alone when Jesus begins to ask questions of His Disciples. Peter identifies Jesus as the Messiah;

20 ***He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God.***

Within the next 8 days Jesus will take three disciples with Him to a higher point on the mountain to pray. At that point these three disciples; Peter, James and John will see another world and I am going to call it another dimension of what exists even today. It is that 4th unseen dimension. It is hidden from our eyes as we discussed two Sunday's ago; only when it serves God purpose,

are we allowed to see that dimension while we are still in our 3-dimensional world.

To understand and see that discussion again; go to our website at

<https://livingmontanabiblestudy.com/blog/f/does-god-describe-a-4th-dimension-in-the-bible>

These three disciples were with the rest of the disciples when Jesus uttered these words;

27 But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

When we look at the definition of “death” it can be spiritual or physical. We know that all three disciples died; two under tortures conditions at the hands of the Roman rulers and John of old age even though he too was tortured prior to his death. These three disciples are now going to have their 3-dimensional eyes opened for a brief moment and they are going to see two people from another heretofore an unseen dimension.

If you go through that brief study cited above, you will see that the Bible has a number of verses that verify what I call this 4th dimension. It is simply the unseen world that includes heaven. Within that world there operates at present an evil aspect as well, but all having to abide by God’s Laws of that unseen world. I

know nothing more than anyone else about this other dimension other than it exists, and some of those in it are allowed to transition between that world and this world, including Angels and demons and those former human beings that have died and are in God's Kingdom. Which brings us to the point of what Jesus said.

He told His disciples that some would see this Kingdom of God before they died. I submit that it would be James, Peter and John as we will see in the next few verses. One final note; these disciples were given a glimpse of a two of those who live in this other dimension but certainly just a glimpse.

28And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

Jesus is coming near to the time that He will be arrested and crucified. He takes with Him three of His trusted Disciples; we are not told why He chose these three and not all of His Disciples. Jesus had to deal with the same flesh we deal with and within that flesh that God gave us is the inherent will to survive, to live. If we knew as Jesus knew how our end of life was going to happen, we might try to alter things so we could continue in this life if for no other reason than the will to survive that God put within us all. Jesus knew what was coming, and He undoubtedly in His flesh felt fear.

I say that because of what He says to God short after this conversation coming up.

29And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white *and* glistening.

Jesus Himself takes on “an-other worldly” appearance. White is a reference to purity; Christ was pure, and He was going to be in the presence of His Father and two others that had attained that level of existence; Heaven.

30And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

There is no ambiguity here; the two men that Jesus spoke to in person for lack of a better term were; Moses and Elijah. Elijah did not die as all normally do, he was translated, transported to heaven directly from life. Moses died a natural death, but a dispute irrupted in heaven over his body. Now that is interesting, if this other dimension is not physical then how did a dispute occur over Moses body?

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

What possible interest did Satan have with Moses body? We are not told but whatever it was Michael had been dispatched by God

to deliver it to where God intended. Did Satan have an inkling of what Moses would be used for back in this world at a later date and wanted to disrupt that plan? Whatever Satan's plan was it was thwarted by God as usual.

31Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

The term God uses here is "Glory"

doxa dox'-ah: glory (as very apparent), in a wide application (literal or figurative, objective or subjective) -- dignity, glory(-ious), honour, praise, worship.

I would surmise this to be the Estate of God and all that are Righteous would be within that estate; by being within the estate of God they would all glorious in presence and substance. These two renowned men of old, who attained this stature of being in the Glorious presence of God are now displayed in our 3 dimensional world as gleaming or glowing in appearance. Reflecting the glorious nature of being in God's presence.

In verse 31 we also find the word "decease".

Decease;

εξοδος noun - accusative singular feminine

exodos ex'-od-os: an exit, i.e. (figuratively) death -- decease, departing.

They were there discussing the upcoming death of Christ or exodus from earth and from simple flesh to resurrected body, the First Resurrected Body. I do not make light of that; it is simply a statement as to what they were discussing. We can now discuss why would they do that?

God, Jesus, Elijah, Moses; they all knew of what was to come and the pain that Jesus would endure, not only physical pain but spiritual pain as God turned His back on His Son in order to fulfill the judgement of Sin. Sin is death; if Christ was to take on the mantle of the sins of the world then DEATH would be a part of that; physical and spiritual death. You may wonder, when did God ever turn His back on His Son?

Matthew 27: [46](#)And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Jesus knew what was coming and the Father in His Love of His Son sent to Him two men of renowned that had experienced life in the flesh and all of its pain and suffering. Neither of them went through what Jesus was going to go through but they had come out on the other side and knew the Glory that awaited Jesus they had already beheld.

All of heaven was holding its collective breath in anticipation of this moment to come; a moment that would last days for Jesus,

being rejected, arrested, abandoned, interrogated, beaten savagely and finally nailed to a cross like the worst of the criminals. And with all of that pain to have His Own Father turn His back on Him as He took the entire sin of the world onto Himself. The punishment for sin is Death. Jesus would die the loneliest death any man ever died. His Father needed to assure Him that Glory was at the end of this insidious next few days and that He needed to be strong for the sake of mankind. So, God sent Him Moses and Elijah to encourage and comfort Him in this combination flesh/spirit.

One final point on verse 31; this was all to be accomplished at the center of the world, then and today, Jerusalem the Holy City that God chose for His people; that is where His Son would die for the World. It is also where Jesus will return at the end of the age.

32But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him. 33And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.

This glimpse into the other dimension was fleeting for the disciples, but to the disciples it was life changing. They could see ever so briefly two occupants of the next life and seeing those of

renowned speaking with their Jesus confirmed in their minds they were following the right person. Only the resurrection would change them internally, but this glimpse was part of that preparation for the leap of Faith they all needed to take to carry out their mission in life.

34While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. 35And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

God has used a cloud since after the fall of mankind, to hide His true presence and for one good reason. Man, in his fallen condition cannot see God and survive.

Exodus 34: 5And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

*Exodus 33: 20And he said, **Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.** 21And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: 22And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: 23And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.*

Now I hate to state the obvious but if Moses saw the back parts of God then that tells me that in this 4th dimension or Estate of Heaven, God either can or has use of a physical form that can be

seen. There is some aspect of the “Face of God” that is so Glorious that the “human” eye cannot behold it.

The fallen state continues to this day, so even in the presence of God those disciples whom Jesus had chosen would not see God’s face lest they die.

More important than seeing God was to hear from Him. He was blunt and to the point.

35 ***And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.***

We looked at this last week as to the difference of listening and hearing and it all depends on the context it appears. The distinction between the two is minimal so we need to understand what God is saying in the context of the verse.

It is abundantly clear that God first established who Jesus was and how important it was for mankind to understand who He has and would say. It was vitally important for what was to come that the disciples had no misunderstandings as to Who Jesus was and how important the things were that He was going to say. The Words were to be the pattern we were to live our lives by.

So, God declares Jesus to be His Son and tells the disciples in two words; HEAR and HIM. It goes way beyond simply having

sound reach their ears, they were being told in no uncertain terms that they were to understand, grasp, know, fathom what the Son of the Living God was going to tell them.

36And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept *it* close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.

God has kept certain things secret, for His purposes and His reasons. It is not to us to question those purposes we simply accept them as for what they are; at the time of this occurrence no one outside these three disciples were read in on this, period; For God's Purposes and in His timing.

37And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him.

This seems to be a reoccurring theme; it is hard to believe that Christ could get any time to Himself at all. But we know that He spent the night on this mountain.

38And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child. 39And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him. 40And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not.

A man's heart breaks at the condition his son is in. Consider the Heart of God and how it would break in a few short days at the loss of His Son to the Sins of the World. Jesus knew something of this loss; separation, despair, abandonment; all of those plus the physical pain He would endure, yes, He knew something of what this father was enduring. It is compounded by knowing that He had given the power to His disciples, yet their faith had failed them.

The idea that men who had been granted this Faith and Power and who had not been able to use it was disconcerting to the Lord. But not a surprise, Jesus knew exactly what would happen and He would use it as a teaching moment. He had to make the disciples understand as well as the crowd how important Faith was so His comment would be considered "direct" and perhaps "harsh", but sometimes the truth hurts.

41And Jesus answering said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither.

The father may have played a role in this as well, he was the one who brought his son to the disciples so does that speak of his "faith" was it a faltering faith? Or was he relying on the faith of the disciples? We know by looking at Mark's Gospel that the father

admitted to Jesus that he needed Jesus to help him with his “unbelief”.

42And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare *him*. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

Luke reports no conversation between Jesus and the demon but in Mark we saw that the conversation was one sided; Jesus speaks, and the demon has to obey. We are not told what Jesus did with this unclean spirit, if it were cast to the bottomless pit to await sentencing?

Mark gives a bit more about this encounter;

Mark 9: 20And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. 21And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. 22And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. 23Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. 24And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. 25When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. 26And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. 27But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. 28And when he was come into the house, his

disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? [29](#)And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

This is from;

Matthew [19](#)Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? [20](#)And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. [21](#)Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Jesus uses an allegory to describe Faith's Spiritual power not necessarily its material power. By that I mean that Jesus was not telling His disciples to move mountains literally. He was speaking of Spiritual mountains that they could move. Remember, the power God gave them was only to be used to carry out His Will not their own will.

Faith is LIKE a mustard seed; in its original form when God gives it to us as a gift;

Ephesians 2: [8](#)For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

We have debated the grammar of this sentence and I think we are safe to say that both Grace and Faith are gifts from God. Grace is from God as is the initial seed of Faith that He gave each of us.

The mustard seed is one of the smallest of seeds;

Matthew 13: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

God gives each Christian this small seed of Faith. It is through its use and practice that it grows and becomes this large “tree” of Faith, able to accomplish those things God wants us to accomplish in Faith. In another term it is like a muscle that grows as it is feed and exercised. Don’t feed a muscle, don’t work out a muscle and it will deteriorate and not grow strong.

Even though Luke did not cover this specific sentence it is important to understand the same even covered by Matthew that he did cover this sentence that Jesus said about faith.

Remember, in Luke, Jesus chastised His disciples for their lack of faith; so, when we take the same event covered in Luke, Mark and Matthew we get a more complete picture of the point Jesus was making with His disciples; they needed to exercise their faith in healing the sick and removing demons from people.

43And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God. But while they wondered every one at all things which Jesus did, he said unto his disciples, 44Let these

sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.

God had just manifested Himself the night before in the image of a cloud on the mountain and what did He tell the three disciples?

35And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

Now Jesus says this;

44Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.

I had a history teacher once that in order to help us grasp the important things for later testing he told us when he came to something, we needed to memorize he would jump up and down. As he proceeded to teach over the next semester, every once in a while, he would start to jump up and down; if you were halfway intelligent you would mark that as important in our little heads filled with mush; knowing it was going to be on a test sometime.

Jesus in a way was jumping up and down when he said;

44Let these sayings sink down into your ears:.....

Q. Let what sink down into your ears; What was to sink in?

“for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.”

45But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.

If we were standing there with Jesus, I doubt we would have any better understanding than the disciples did. But then we are told that the understanding of it was hidden from them and they could not comprehend its meaning. God hides things from us for usually the same reason; His Timing. Say for example God had revealed the date that His Son was going to return for His Church; the Rapture. What do you suppose wicked men and women would do?

They would wait until the day before the Rapture to turn their lives over to Christ defeating the growth necessary within each believer, to say nothing of evangelism. What would the depth of conversion be in that last day before Rapture? God needs to hide things from us so we will have “Hope” for things unseen and “Faith” in His Word all meant to cause us to grow in our Christian walk with Him.

The only thing that baffles me a bit here is that they were afraid to ask Jesus to explain. Perhaps it was their egos, that each disciple did not want to seem dull or dimwitted in front of each other. Whatever the case; it is better to ask than to blindly stumble forward in hopes of understanding in most things in life.

Let's review, Jesus had been observed healing people of every type of ailment including demon possession. He had conveyed some of this power to His disciples and they had intern cast out some demons and healed people as God would have them do.

Then, three of them get a glimpse of a dimension that the human eye without aid from God cannot see into; they see Moses and Elijah AND hear the Voice of God speak to them. They are then told about the earth-shattering event that will change the life of every human on earth and it goes over their heads albeit by God's plan. However now with all of that, what do the disciples spend their time debating?

46Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest.

Of course, the usual debate among men; who's the best, who's the strongest, who's the fastest, who's the best looking; blah blah blah. Of course these would all be critical matters in the Kingdom of God?

Jesus senses that He is dealing with men with the mind of a child so He speaks to them on the level they might comprehend, much like He would speak to me.

47And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him, 48And said unto them,

Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.

“Years ago, there was a very wealthy man who, with his devoted young son, shared a passion for art collecting. Together they traveled around the world, adding only the finest art treasures to their collection. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others adorned the walls of the family estate. The widowed, elder man looked on with satisfaction as his only child became an experienced art collector. The son’s trained eye and sharp business mind caused his father to beam with pride as they dealt with art collectors around the world.

As winter approached, war engulfed the nation, and the young man left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram. His beloved son was missing in action. The art collector anxiously awaited more news, fearing he would never see his son again. Within days, his fears were confirmed. The young man had died while rushing a fellow soldier to a medic.

Distraught and lonely, the old man faced the upcoming Christmas holidays with anguish and sadness. The joy of the season, a season that he and his son had so looked forward to, would visit his house no longer. On Christmas morning, a knock on the door awakened the depressed old man. As he walked to the door, the masterpieces of art on the walls only reminded him that his son was not coming home.

As he opened the door, he was greeted by a soldier with a large package in his hand. He introduced himself to the man by saying, “I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you.” As the two began to talk, the soldier told of how the

man's son had told everyone of his, not to mention his father's, love of fine art. "I'm an artist," said the soldier, "and I want to give you this." As the old man unwrapped the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of the son.

Though the world would never consider it the work of a genius, the painting featured the young man's face in striking detail. Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the soldier, promising to hang the picture over the fireplace. A few hours later, after the soldier had departed, the old man set about his task.

True to his word, the painting went well above the fireplace, pushing aside thousands of dollars of paintings. And then the man sat in his chair and spent Christmas gazing at the gift he had been given. During the days and weeks that followed, the man realized that even though his son was no longer with him, the boy's life would live on because of those he had touched. He would soon learn that his son had rescued dozens of wounded soldiers before a bullet stilled his caring heart.

As the stories of his son's gallantry continued to reach him, fatherly pride and satisfaction began to ease the grief. The painting of his son soon became his most prized possession, far eclipsing any interest in the pieces for which museums around the world clamored. He told his neighbors it was the greatest gift he had ever received.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. The art world was in anticipation!

Unmindful of the story of the man's only son, but in his honor, those paintings would be sold at an auction. According to the will of the old man, all of the art works would be auctioned on Christmas day, the day he had received his greatest gift. The day soon arrived and art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings. Dreams

would be fulfilled this day; greatness would be achieved as many claim "I have the greatest collection." The auction began with a painting that was not on any museum's list. It was the painting of the man's son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid. The room was silent.

"Who will open the bidding with \$100?" he asked. Minutes passed. No one spoke. From the back of the room came, "Who cares about that painting? It's just a picture of his son. Let's forget it and go on to the good stuff."

More voices echoed in agreement. "No, we have to sell this one first," replied the auctioneer. "Now, who will take the son?" Finally, a friend of the old man spoke, "Will you take ten dollars for the painting? That's all I have. I knew the boy, so I'd like to have it."

"I have ten dollars. Will anyone go higher?" called the auctioneer. After more silence, the auctioneer said, "Going once, going twice. Gone." The gavel fell, cheers filled the room and someone exclaimed, "Now we can get on with it and we can bid on these treasures!"

The auctioneer looked at the audience and announced the auction was over. Stunned disbelief quieted the room. Someone spoke up and asked, "What do you mean it's over? We didn't come here for a picture of some old guy's son. What about all of these paintings? There are millions of dollars of art here! I demand that you explain what's going on here!" The auctioneer replied, "It's very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son...gets it all." Author anonymous

Take the Son, you get it all!

January 26, 2020

49And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us. 50And Jesus said unto him, Forbid *him* not: for he that is not against us is for us.

I had never considered this in light of what I am about to share. This quotation is from Pulpit Commentary and aligns with several other commentators. It is interesting that a large number of commentaries are silent on this verse?

“The offence of the stranger, if it were an offence, was not against Jesus, whose Name had evidently been used reverently and with faith, but against the disciples, whose rights and privileges were presumably infringed upon. The Master's reply contained a broad and far-reaching truth. No earthly society, however holy, would be able exclusively to claim the Divine powers inseparably connected with a true and faithful use of his Name. This is the grand and massive answer which stretches over a history of eighteen centuries, and which will possibly extend over many yet to come; the answer which gives an ample reason why noble Christian work is done whether emanating from Churches bearing the name of Protestant, or Roman, or Greek”

Phillipians 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Herein lies the problem; the word “against” has three meanings and is determined by the context; in verse 50 means;

2596 /katá ("bring down exactly, complete") is "opposite" to

There are hundreds of man-made religions as a matter of fact all religion is man-made. There is only one Church that Jesus Christ started, and it is not a religion it is a relationship. We can accept the definition of religion as a belief. Belief can be in anything so almost anything can be a religion.

I know this is a fine line, but name a religion that a man or woman did not set out to create based on his or her interpretation of scripture or some other writing or perceived illumination by some deity? All religions are man-made but there is only ONE RELATIONSHIP with Jesus Christ and that is through God's Love, Mercy and Grace and the Blood of Jesus Christ.

I had wondered about; say the Mormon Religion and it is definitely a religion, made by a man who had a vision and his own interpretation of the Bible. But they preach Jesus and Jesus said those who are not against us are for us.

I think if we consider that as narrowly as Jesus stated it, we will find that the person the disciples were concerned about was not creating a religion, he was simply and reverently and with Faith in the Name was calling on the Name of Jesus to expel demons. All religions including the Mormon Religion have taken it far beyond the Faithful use of the name of Jesus. They as others have

assigned works, and meanings to things that Jesus never intended.

Remember the definition of “against”

[2596](#) /*katá* ("bring *down* exactly, complete") is "*opposite*" to

When man does not bring the Word of God exactly as complete then they are the opposite or against the Truth. The Mormon Religion as well as many other religions including many so called protestant religions have taken opposite positions to God’s Word. For example, look at what the Methodist Church has just determined; They divided into two groups; those that believe it is okay for women pastors, homosexual pastors and marriages and those that don’t believe that is Scriptural. Would you say they are “for” the Truth or “against” it?

We could go through many religions and find similar issues of being against the Truth, suffice it to say, that if you want to be saved then belong to the only True Church; the one Jesus started, and it is a pure relationship Church.

Samaritans Reject Jesus

[51](#)And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

Luke's perspective is from after the events that he records, he did an investigation and from the evidence he gathered he wrote this Gospel, under the control and urging of the Holy Spirit.

Luke is the only writer that could see the mindset of Jesus and His determination to go to Jerusalem to meet what He knew to be His own demise. But it was His Father's Will and above all Jesus wanted to carry out that single minded mission; to do His Father's Will.

Jesus Mission lay in Jerusalem and nothing would keep Him from it. Jesus was north of Jerusalem around the north end of the Sea of Galilee, so He needed to go south toward His goal; Jerusalem. To get there He would leave Galilee, go through Samaria and enter Judea where Jerusalem is located.

52And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.

We need a full understanding of this verse to embrace the next. This is a quote from Pulpit Commentary and puts it more succinctly than I could. Remember our discussion on when the Assyrians and others defeated the ten northern tribes and sent many of the Hebrews off to other parts of the world and replaced them with conquered people from other regions. There was

intermarrying that finally took place in what was to be called by the Romans; Samaria.

“Verse 52. - And sent messengers before his face. Probably, as the sequel shows, these were John and James. This was necessary at this period of the Lord's life. A numerous company now usually followed the Lord; it is probable that many of those most devoted to him, both men and women, scarcely ever left him, now that the popular enthusiasm was waning, and the number of his deadly enemies increasing. And they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. These Samaritans were the descendants of a, mixed race brought by Esarhaddon (eighth century B.C.) from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, to replace the ten tribes carried captive to the East. These became worshippers of Jehovah, and, on the return of Judah and Benjamin from captivity, sought to be allowed to share in the rebuilding of the temple, and then to be admitted as Jews to share in the religious privileges of the chosen race. Their wishes, however, were not complied with. They subsequently erected a rival temple on Mount Gerizim, and henceforward were known as a schismatical sect, and continued in a state of deadly enmity with the orthodox Jews. This bitter hatred is noticed in the New Testament (see [John 4:9](#)), where it is stated that the Jews "had no dealings with the Samaritans," whom they looked on as worse than heathen. In the synagogues these Samaritans were cursed. The Son of Sirach named them as a people that they abhorred (Ecclus. 1:25, 26); and in the Talmud we read this terrible passage, "Let not the Samaritans have part in the resurrection!" This hatred, however, we know, was not shared in by our Lord, and on more than one occasion we find him dealing gently and lovingly with this race.”

53And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

If we allow one past wrong to dictate our lives, we will live in bitterness and hatred. Somewhere, somehow, a break in the line of hatred must prevail if two enemies are ever to find peace. The only Common Ground that can be found in is Jesus Christ. That was not be at this point. When they learned that Jesus and those following Him were headed to Jerusalem the hatred overcame the desire for Truth. Can we see hatred today overcome the need for Truth?

In verse 53 the Samaritans were angered by the knowledge that Jesus whom they likely wanted to be a part of their lives was going to worship at the rival temple in Jerusalem. And that, was a bridge too far for them to cross. The old adage of throwing out the Baby with the Bath comes to mind.

54And when his disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

The fleshly response is; burn em! James and John, Jesus disciples and 1st Cousins, were offended that the Samaritans would reject the Lord, so the “Sons of Thunder” thought it best to

call down fire from heaven and resolve the problem once and for all. That is not Christ's way of dealing with conflict.

I am as guilty today of the notion of the Sons of Thunder as they were in the day they said it. I am wrong in that feeling; I may hate the opinion of the opposition, but I am not allowed to judge or hate the person of the opposition. I am to pray for their salvation and show them love, mercy and grace. Not to the extent that I condone or absolve them of their sin but in love tell them, show them that Jesus Christ is the Truth they so desperately need. I fully admit my many failures in my thoughts about liberals, socialists, communists that want to destroy a nation like America. But I have to, we all have to stop hating and start praying.

55But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

As Pulpit Commentary puts it, Jesus brought about miracles of every main element except fire. That is reserved for the end of the age and this was not the time of Judgment, this was the time for Him to Save the world.

56For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them*. And they went to another village.

If the Truth is rejected by non-believers and even those who claim to know the truth as in many religions we spoke of, we can only

move on as with Christ, with our eyes on the finish line; for Jesus it was Jerusalem.

57And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. 58And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

59And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. 60Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. 61And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. 62And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Matthew 8: 19And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. 20And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. 21And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. 22But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

The commitment we make to Jesus is coupled with eternity. A halfhearted commitment should result in a halfhearted eternity, but that is not God's Way. He is totally committed to us and ask that we be totally committed to Him, it really is; "all or nothing" in God's economy. This total commitment may not start at the day you were born again, but this path like Jesus' path to Jerusalem is

what is called, the Sanctification process or progress. Each day our commitment needs to become stronger with less interference from the world. The flesh must die, and the Spirit must control our lives; Christ and Christ alone is our goal.

Luke 9: [24](#)For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.