

Luke Study 1 - On Mission with Jesus **Lk 9:51-10:24**

Introduction

What are some of the great road trips in the world? Route 66, which winds all the way from L.A. to Chicago? The winding road around Italy's Amalfi Coast? Australia's own Great Ocean Road? There are some great road trips in the world.

At the point in which we get back into *Luke* today, Jesus is about to go on a road trip: the journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. Up until now, Jesus has been working and travelling in the north of Israel, in Galilee, teaching about the kingdom of God and driving out demons and healing. But now, in a turning point in the Gospel, Jesus turns his face to Jerusalem in the south and resolutely starts travelling there.

Why? Not to go on a holiday like in other road trips: this will be no Route 66. Rather, Jesus goes to Jerusalem because he is on a mission: to save humanity from its sins.

In today's study, we see Jesus at the start of his journey, explaining what his mission will be like. It will be hard: hard for Jesus, hard for those he calls, and hard for those who join him in his mission. But it will also be totally worth it, because being on mission with Jesus is a trip taken by people whose future is already secure in eternity.

Read Luke 9:51-56

1. What does it mean for Jesus to be 'taken up into heaven?' (Read 9:21-22, 44). What does this tell us about Jesus' mission?
2. When Jesus asks for help in his mission, what reaction does he get?
3. How does Jesus respond to this reaction?
4. What does this say about God's judgment? That God won't punish those who reject Jesus? Something else? (See 2 Pe 3:8-10)

Jesus' mission is hard for *him*: it will mean going to the cross for our sin and being rejected by the very people he's trying to save. But he is still merciful: he still gives time for people to repent. But that doesn't mean the call to follow him isn't urgent, as we'll see in the next section.

Read Luke 9:57-62

5. Jesus has three exchanges with three people about following him. What does Jesus say to each of them?
6. What do you think about Jesus' responses? How do they make you feel?
7. What do you think Jesus is trying to say?

Jesus' mission is hard for *those he calls*. It means giving up everything to follow him. That explains why the disciples who call others to follow Jesus also have mixed results, as we see next.

Read Luke 10:1-16

8. When Jesus sends out more disciples to prepare the way for him, they get different reactions. What are they? How should the disciples respond in each case?
9. How much of this do you think is applicable to our own attempts to share Jesus?

Jesus' mission is hard for *those who join him in it*. People will both accept us and reject us when we call them to follow Jesus. The good thing to remember in both cases is that it's not really us they're accepting or rejecting, but Jesus (v.16).

Read Luke 10:17-24

10. The disciples return from their mission 'with joy' (v.17). Why?
11. What does Jesus tell them is an even greater reason for joy?
12. How should this shape how we think about our own ministry successes?
13. Jesus is also filled with joy (v.21). Why?
14. How should what Jesus says in verses 21-24 about how people can know God have an impact on how we do mission?

It's great to rejoice over ministry successes. But it's even better to know that we are going to heaven, regardless of whether we succeed in ministry or not. This is good to remember both when we succeed and fail. And it makes sense: the only way anyone comes to follow Jesus in the end is not because of our brilliance but because God has revealed him to them.