

# The Good News About Jesus as Luke Wrote It

## Chapter 9

HoneyBee base version for oral translation

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### Background

- Jewish travelers depended on hospitality.
- To shake dust from feet or shoes was a Jewish practice when leaving an “unclean” place (that is, a place or people that they considered undesirable to be with)
- Ancient prophets were known to have resuscitated the dead.
- It was customary to begin a meal with a short prayer, such as, “Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who have brought bread from the earth.”
- Jewish views of Messiah mostly revolved around an earthly kingdom (e.g. King David’s kingdom restored).
- God had revealed his glory to Moses on a mountain.
- Exorcists invoked more powerful spirits to expel lesser ones.
- Samaritans and Jews detested one another’s holy sites.

### History

- Jesus earlier chose 12 men to be his full-time disciples, calling them his ‘apostles’.
- “Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee under the Roman Empire, had imprisoned John... He later ordered him to be killed by beheading.” —Wikipedia

### Themes

- Following Jesus remains a priority over valid family and social obligations.
- Show mercy to enemies whenever possible..

### Jesus delegates his authority to his 12 apostles

<sup>1</sup> One day, Jesus summoned his twelve apostles. He gave to them authority and power<sup>2</sup> to expel all demons, and to heal sick people. <sup>2</sup> He was going to send them out to proclaim to people that God is<sup>3</sup> their true Ruler, and to prove this by healing sick people. <sup>3</sup> Jesus said to them,

“Do not take things for your journey. Do not take a walking stick, a traveler’s bag, food, or money. Do not take extra clothes. <sup>4</sup> Whenever you enter someone’s house to lodge there, stay in that house until you leave that town. <sup>5</sup> In towns where the people do not welcome you or

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<sup>1</sup> Licensed for use under Creative Commons. Text in *italics* is implied from historical or cultural context. Superscripted <sup>(pl)</sup> means plural, <sup>(sg)</sup> singular, <sup>(inc)</sup> inclusive, <sup>(exc)</sup> exclusive pronoun.

<sup>2</sup> OR permission and ability. Authority is rights or permission; power is ability or strength.

<sup>3</sup> OR that the Messiah, Jesus, is.

*your message, do not continue to stay there. Leave those towns. And as you leave, shake off the dust from your feet, to warn them that God will punish them."*

<sup>6</sup> So the 12 left and traveled through many villages. Everywhere they went, they told people God's good message, and healed sick people.

<sup>7</sup> Herod Antipas, the district ruler, heard about the things that Jesus and his disciples were doing. He had previously *commanded his soldiers to execute/behead* John the Baptizer. So he was perplexed, because some people were saying that John had become alive again, and was doing those miracles.

<sup>8</sup> Others were saying that the prophet Elijah, or another ancient prophet, had become alive again and was doing those miracles. <sup>9</sup> But Herod said, "It cannot be John who is doing these things, because my soldiers cut off his head. So who is this man that I am hearing these things about?" And he kept wanting to see Jesus.

## Jesus provides food for many many people<sup>4</sup>

<sup>10</sup> When the apostles returned from traveling to various towns, they reported to Jesus the things that they had *said and done*. Then he took them with him, and they went by themselves *by boat across the lake* to a village called Bethsaida. <sup>11</sup> But when the crowds who had been with Jesus found out about this, they traveled to where he was. He welcomed them, and taught them about God's Kingdom.<sup>5</sup> He also healed the sick people.

<sup>12</sup> Late in the afternoon, Jesus' twelve apostles came to him and said, "Nobody lives in this place. So you should dismiss the people, so that they can go to surrounding villages and farms<sup>6</sup> where they can get some food and find places to stay!" <sup>13</sup> But he said to them, "No. You yourselves must give them something to eat!" They replied, "We<sup>(exc)</sup> have only five small bread loaves and two cooked/*dried* fish. So must we go buy food for all these people?"

<sup>14</sup> There were about 5,000 men there *in the crowd*,<sup>7</sup> so Jesus told his disciples what to do: "Tell the people to sit down. Tell them to sit in groups, with about 50 people in each group." <sup>15</sup> After they told the people this, they all sat down. <sup>16</sup> Then Jesus took the five small loaves and the two *dried* fish. He looked up towards heaven and thanked God for them. Next, he broke them into pieces, and gave these to his disciples, *telling them* to distribute the pieces<sup>8</sup> to the crowd.

<sup>17</sup> All the people in the crowd ate until they all had enough to eat. Then the disciples collected the broken *food* pieces that were left over. These filled 12 baskets! <sup>17</sup> All the people in the crowd ate until they all had enough to eat. Then the disciples collected the broken *food* pieces that were left over. These filled 12 baskets!

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<sup>4</sup> OR Jesus feeds 5000 hungry men with two fishes and five little bread loaves.

<sup>5</sup> OR how he is the Messiah. OR how God is their true Ruler/King. (Different interpreters suppose that the kingdom of God was (a) a future government, (b) a present, spiritual experience, or (c) Jesus the Messiah himself.)

<sup>6</sup> OR other places.

<sup>7</sup> OR about 5000 men were in the crowd. OR about 5000 men there among/besides some women and children. (It was mostly men who went to see and to hear preachers outside of towns, since women had many chores at home and were less concerned with religious discussions, while children required constant care. 5000 was an estimate, rounded to the nearest 1000.)

<sup>8</sup> OR the food. OR the fish and bread pieces.

## Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah<sup>9</sup>

<sup>18</sup> One day Jesus was praying in a place where only his 12 disciples were with him. He asked them, “Who do the crowds/people say that I really am?” <sup>19</sup> They replied, “Some people say that you are John the Baptizer, and have come back to life. Others say that you are the prophet Elijah, and have returned from heaven as God promised. Others say that you are another prophet who lived long ago, and have come back to life.”

<sup>20</sup> Jesus asked them, “What about you<sup>(pl)</sup>? Who do you say that I am?” Peter replied, “You<sup>(sg)</sup> are the Messiah, the one whom God promised to send.”<sup>10</sup> <sup>21</sup> Then Jesus warned his 12 disciples strongly not yet to tell anyone *that he was the Messiah*. <sup>22</sup> Then he said, “Even though I am the Divine Human Son, I must soon suffer very much. Our community elders/leaders, the chief priests, and the Scribes will all soon reject me, *denying that I am the Messiah*. *Soon after that*, people will kill me. But on the third day *after I die*, I will become alive again.” <sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to all his disciples,

“If you<sup>(sg)</sup> want to be my disciple, then you<sup>(sg)</sup> must stop living to please/protect yourself. You must be ready, each day, for others to harm you, or to disgrace you, as they will soon do to me. *You will be treated like criminals whom people force to carry wooden crosses to the place where those people will kill them.*

<sup>24</sup> I warn you<sup>(sg)</sup> that if you try to save your *present life on earth by not obeying me*, then you will die forever. But even if people kill you<sup>(sg)</sup> because you are my disciple, then you will live forever.

<sup>25</sup> Even if somebody gains everything in this world that they want, *if they are not my disciples*, then they will lose or forfeit themselves<sup>11</sup> forever.

<sup>26</sup> If you<sup>(sg)</sup> refuse me and reject my message,<sup>12</sup> then I will refuse you, when I come back as the Divine Human Son, with my Father’s bright glory,<sup>13</sup> and with his holy angels. <sup>27</sup> But listen carefully to my words! Some people from among you<sup>(pl)</sup> who are here today will see God ruling in many powerful ways.<sup>14</sup> You<sup>(pl)</sup> will see this before you die!”

## Jesus shines brilliantly on the mountain<sup>15</sup>

<sup>28</sup> About a week after Jesus said those things, he took Peter, James, *and James’ brother* John and led them up a mountain, so that they could pray there. <sup>29</sup> As he was praying, his face *changed to appear very different to them*, and his clothes became as bright as lightning. <sup>30-31</sup> Suddenly, two men appeared who had bright glory surrounding them. They were Moses and Elijah, prophets who lived long ago. They were talking with Jesus about how he would soon die in Jerusalem to accomplish *what God had planned for him*.

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<sup>9</sup> OR Jesus is the Messiah, who must die and then return to life.

<sup>10</sup> OR whom God promised would come.

<sup>11</sup> OR they will never gain everlasting life.

<sup>12</sup> OR are shamed by me and my message. OR are fearful that I and my message will shame you. (Jesus was speaking to a ‘honor-shame’ culture, so speaks of disbelief or disobedience, as being ‘ashamed’ or as being afraid of being shamed.)

<sup>13</sup> OR surrounded in dazzling light. OR surrounded in brilliant splendor.

<sup>14</sup> OR as King over his people.

<sup>15</sup> Jesus shows his bright glory to Peter, James and John.

<sup>32</sup> While this was happening, Peter, John and James had fallen asleep. When they woke up, they saw Jesus' bright glory. They also saw Moses and Elijah standing with him. <sup>33</sup> As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good that we are here! Allow us to make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!" But Peter did not realize that what he was saying *was not needed/useful*.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>34</sup> As he was saying this, a bright cloud appeared and covered them all. The disciples became afraid as the cloud surrounded them. <sup>35</sup> God spoke to them from the cloud with a voice, saying: "This is my Son. He is the one whom I have chosen to be my Messiah. So you must listen to him!" <sup>36</sup> After God spoke to them, the three disciples saw that only Jesus was still there. They did not tell anyone what they had seen *on the mountain* until much later.

### Jesus delivers a young boy from demons<sup>17</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Next day, after they came down from the mountain, a large crowd came and met Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Then a man in the crowd shouted,

"Teacher! I beg you to do something to help my son! He is my only child! <sup>39</sup> Sometimes an evil spirit suddenly seizes him and causes him to scream. The evil spirit shakes him violently<sup>18</sup> and causes him to foam at his mouth. It does not leave him until he is completely exhausted.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>40</sup> When I begged your disciples to expel the evil spirit, they *tried but* were not able to do so!"

<sup>41</sup> Jesus replied to the whole crowd, "You people alive today *have demons, because* you are not faithful *to the True God*, and you *secretly* practice wicked things. I shall not be with you much longer, nor shall I continue to tolerate your sins."<sup>20</sup> Then he said to the boy's father, "Bring your<sup>(sg)</sup> son here to me!"

<sup>42</sup> While they were bringing the boy to Jesus, the demon threw the boy to the ground, and caused him to shake/convulse severely. But Jesus rebuked that demon and healed the boy. Then he returned the boy to his father's care. <sup>43</sup> All the people there were amazed at God's great power *over evil*.

While they all were amazed at all the miracles that Jesus was doing, he said to his disciples, <sup>44</sup> "Listen carefully to what I now tell you: Even though I am the Divine Human Son, people will soon betray me, by handing me over *to my enemies*." <sup>45</sup> But the disciples did not understand what he said, because God had hidden from them what Jesus meant. And they did not ask him about what he said, because they were afraid *that he might scold them again*.

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<sup>16</sup> OR But Peter did not really know what he was saying. OR But Peter was speaking nonsense (useless/silly words). (You may have an idiom in your language for when somebody speaks stupidly (i.e. blowing smoke, talking out of his buttocks, speaking like a drunkard). You might want to use it here.)

<sup>17</sup> OR Jesus continues teaching and doing miracles.

<sup>18</sup> OR causes him to convulse/seize.

<sup>19</sup> OR greatly harmed. OR almost destroyed.

<sup>20</sup> OR to wait for you to change your wicked ways.

## Jesus teaches his disciples that they must be humble<sup>21</sup>

<sup>46</sup> Later, Jesus' disciples began to argue among themselves about which one man in their group would be the greatest<sup>22</sup> *when Jesus later became king*. <sup>47</sup> But Jesus perceived what they were thinking. So he brought a young child *from the crowd to stand by his side*. Then he said to his disciples:

<sup>48</sup> "You who are humble enough to welcome this child *as your equal, while honoring my name*, will also be welcoming me *as your partner*. And you who welcome me *as your partner*, will also be welcoming God who sent me *to you from heaven*. So, the humblest person<sup>23</sup> among you<sup>(pl)</sup> disciples is already the greatest one."<sup>24</sup>

<sup>49</sup> Then *the disciple named John* replied to Jesus, "Master, we<sup>(exc)</sup> saw a man who was expelling demons by calling out your name over them.<sup>25</sup> We disciples told him to stop doing so, because he is not in our group."<sup>50</sup> But Jesus said to him *and to the other disciples*, "Do not tell him to stop doing so! Because those who are not trying to stop you are really helping you!"

<sup>51</sup> When it was almost time for God to take Jesus up to heaven, Jesus firmly resolved<sup>26</sup> to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> *While visiting towns along the way*, he sent some messengers to go before him. They entered a village in Samaria district to find a place where Jesus *and they could lodge*.<sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>53</sup> *Samaritans do not worship God at the temple in Jerusalem, and they do not like to host/stay with those who worship there. So when they heard that Jesus was going to Jerusalem, they refused to let him lodge<sup>29</sup> in their village.*

<sup>54</sup> When two disciples, James and John, realized this, they asked Jesus, "Lord, do you<sup>(sg)</sup> want us<sup>(exc)</sup> *two* to ask God to send fire down from heaven and destroy<sup>30</sup> those Samaritans?"<sup>55</sup> <sup>56</sup> But Jesus turned towards them and rebuked them *for wanting to destroy people*.<sup>31</sup> <sup>56</sup> So the messengers went to a different *Samaritan village and found a place where Jesus and they could lodge*.

## Following Jesus is not easy.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>57</sup> As Jesus and the disciples were walking along a road, a man came and said to him, "I will go with you<sup>(sg)</sup> wherever you go!"<sup>58</sup> In order that the man might know what he could expect if he went with

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<sup>21</sup> OR Jesus' disciples all want to be honored.

<sup>22</sup> OR be the most honored. OR have the most power. OR be very important.

<sup>23</sup> OR the really/very humble person. OR the very unimportant person.

<sup>24</sup> OR the highly/very honored one.

<sup>25</sup> OR by using your name to authorize them to leave. OR by invoking your name to force them to go out.

<sup>26</sup> OR made a determined decision.

<sup>27</sup> OR teach.

<sup>28</sup> OR to prepare for Jesus and his other disciples to come.

<sup>29</sup> OR teach.

<sup>30</sup> OR and burn up.

<sup>31</sup> OR and said, "No! Do not do that! That would be wrong!" (There is a textual issue here. Some Greek manuscripts (copies made after the original that Luke wrote) add more words to verses 55 and 56: And he [Jesus] said to them [James and John], "You don't realize what your hearts are like [that your words/desires are evil]. I the Divine Human Son have come to save people's lives, not to destroy them." If your major language Bible adds these sentences, you may include them in your translation, but if your major language Bible does not have these additional words, just leave them out.)

<sup>32</sup> OR Jesus talks with three people about following him (being his disciples).

Jesus, Jesus said to him, “Foxes have dens,<sup>33</sup> and birds have nests, but even though I am the Divine Human Son, I do not have a home where I can sleep!”

<sup>59</sup> Jesus said to another man, “Come with me!” But the man said, “Lord/Sir, I must care for my parents until they die.<sup>34</sup> After I have buried them, then I shall go with you.” <sup>60</sup> But Jesus said to him, “Don’t wait to bury your parents. Let people who are dead<sup>35</sup> bury other dead ones. As for you, you go tell people that God’s Messiah has come!”

<sup>61</sup> Someone else said, “Lord, I will go with you and be your disciple, but first let me go back home, *get my relatives’ permission/approval*, and say goodbye to them.” <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, “*Don’t think about going back home*. A man that ploughs a field<sup>36</sup> must continue to look straight in front of him. If he looks behind him, he cannot plough well. *Similarly, those who go to tell others that God’s Kingdom has come must not first seek approval from others or look back/behind himself.*”

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<sup>33</sup> OR holes in the ground in which to live.

<sup>34</sup> OR until they die and I receive my inheritance. (It seems that this man wanted to trust having his inheritance rather than trusting Jesus to provide for his needs.)

<sup>35</sup> OR Let the dead ones. (Jesus described as ‘dead’ those who refused to obey/follow him. They were perhaps breathing and walking around physically alive, but they were spiritually dead; their spirits were dead.)

<sup>36</sup> OR a person that is driving something. (Jesus is using ploughing as an illustration to teach. If ploughing is not known in your culture, you may choose another illustration, such as driving something or running through the forest... the person driving or running, if they keep looking back behind them, they will not drive or run well.)