# Bible Study 67

February 22, 2023

 Luke’s Gospel (continued)

Luke Chapter 9 v 46 begins with an argument among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. He teaches them through a small child using a paradox. “The one who is least is the greatest.”

The last verses of the chapter have people who wish to follow Jesus but have some excuse or other. Jesus teaches how difficult it is to stay on the road that leads to salvation.

We must question whether this is Luke’s community attempting to keep the church together and faithful amid persecution and difficult times. The longer time passes from the time Jesus was with them, in the flesh, the harder it is for some people to believe.

Remember how the Gospels were constructed with the knowledge of Jesus’ sayings, or a scroll called ‘Q’? Well, here is an example at the end of Luke 9. Luke throws down a whole series of sayings without much of a story around them. It is as if he has been following the scroll and finds three or four sayings left over.

“He who is least among you—will be the greatest.”

“He who is not against me is for me.”

“Foxes have their holes and the birds of the air their nests—but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

“Let the dead bury the dead.”

“No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is worthy of the kingdom of God.”

Chapter 10.

In chapter 10 Jesus sends the 72 out to every village and town preaching the Good News of the Kingdom. Chapter 10 is like a discourse and immediately reminds you of the experience of Paul and Luke on the Missionary Journeys through the towns of Asia Minor when they were so often rejected and shook off the dust of that town from their feet.

“He who listens to you listens to me.” Another saying. “He who rejects you, rejects me.”

When the 72 return they report their findings to Jesus. It would remind you of students returning from Teaching Practice or Nurses returning to college from an internship at a hospital. They are full of joy at the things they were able to do. Cast out demons and heal in the Lord’s name. Jesus’ prayer is another of these wonderful remembered sayings:

“I praise you Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth that you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children.”

“Blessed are the eyes that have seen what you have seen.”

Next comes the parable of the “Good Samaritan.” First remember that Jesus has been travelling through Samaria and being rejected there. Always look at the intro of the story and ask : “Who is Jesus addressing this story to in the Gospel.?”

Law. inherit eternal life. Jesus puts the question back to the asker; “What does the law say?”

The questioner replies by quoting the Law. “Remember Israel the Lord your God is one and you shall love the lord your God with all your mind, heart and soul and your neighbor as your self.”

It is the ‘Hesed of God.’

The questioner then asks: “Who is my neighbor?”

The whole of the parable is an answer to this question. The neighbor turns out to be the Samaritan, not the priest or the Levi but the hated Samaritan. Then comes the lesson:

“Go you and do likewise.”

The chapter concludes with this lovely little story of Jesus, Martha and Mary in Lazarus’ house in Bethany. What do you make of it?

Read Chapter 10