

Following Jesus to Jerusalem (Luke 9:46-62)

Luke's Long Jerusalem Journey (Almost all unique to Luke)

- The long Jerusalem journey is the largest section of Luke's Gospel (9:51-19:27)
- **Three Reminders of Jesus' Mission/Subsections**
 - 9:51:** When the days were nearing for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.
 - 13:22:** Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.
 - 17:11:** On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee.

Jerusalem is where Jesus will...

- Be crucified (23:33)
- Rise again (24:6)
- Ascend into heaven (24:51)

Additionally...

- The Church receives the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem in Acts
- Instigating an outward movement of the Gospel, literally expanding throughout Acts until Paul brings it to the capital of the very Empire which appears to rule over Jesus' birth and death.

I. The Question of Greatness

- Brown on the reception of children in Mark's Gospel: "Jesus returns to the issue of those who enter the kingdom. Most think that underlying the children passage there is the correction of a wrong attitude that would demand achievement, abilities, behavior, or status on the part of those who are brought to the kingdom, whereas for Jesus the kingdom/rule of God requires only human receptivity, of which the child is a good symbol. This interpretation brings Mark quite close to Paul's notion of justification by faith."

II. Anyone Not Against Us...

- How can, "The one who is not against you is for you (9:50)," be reconciled with "whoever is not with me is against me (11:23)?"

III. Samaritan Village Rejects Jesus

- This story runs counter to the Samaritan reception of Jesus found in the Gospel of John (4:39-42) where, “Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony.”
- “The people did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem?”
Does this mean that the people rejected him on theological grounds (Samaritans did not believe that Jerusalem as the place where the Temple should be located), or because they also cannot accept the cross?

IV. The Absolute of Following Jesus

- “When God is regarded as a secondary matter that can be set aside temporarily or permanently on account of more important things, it is precisely these supposedly more important things that come to nothing... The issue is the primacy of God.”
Benedict XVI