



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Story of Identity!

Luke 9:1-22

Message #29 of 50 – S808

Sermon given on September 9, 2018



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

A Story of Identity!

Luke 9:1-22

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 9**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- Over the course of my life I have crossed paths with a few famous people
- People who were immediately recognizable
- I could tell you why they were famous – their sport, movies, politics, or ministries
- I would be the first to tell you that I didn't actually know them
- I knew something about them, but not who they really were
- And as famous as they were, that didn't really matter – they had very little influence in my life
- And my opinion about them, their fame, or who they were doesn't matter
- Well, it might not surprise you to hear that there is someone who it does matter what your opinion is about Him
- As a matter of fact, it matters so much that your eternal destiny is determined based on your opinion about this person
- I am, of course, talking about Jesus Christ
- Let's pray, then we'll look at why His true identity is important to us
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Story of Identity!**
- Luke 9 starts with Jesus dispatching the disciples to replicate the work He has been doing
- **Luke 9:1-2**
- It is hard to imagine what that must have been like
- These fishermen and tax collectors are transformed into miracle-working, power-filled preachers of the kingdom of God
- Before He releases them, Jesus gives some last-minute direction

- **Luke 9:3-6**
- They were being sent to the children of Israel, to the Jews, who were expecting the Messiah, who had something of a heart for God. They should be willing to support the disciples as they came representing the Messiah they were seeking
- ‘shake off the very dust from your feet’ – this is what a pious Jew would do after traveling in non-Jewish/Gentile lands – symbolized separating themselves from them
- Means – you have no part of the Messiah
- Telling them not to argue with people about the kingdom of God or try to compel them to believe in Jesus
- Lesson for us as we share the gospel with others – don’t waste time trying to convince someone who refuses to be convinced – move on – trust them into God’s hands
- Jesus is famous in Galilee and His reputation is spreading everywhere
- **Luke 9:7-9**
- Herod is the Roman governor over the area of Galilee
- ‘he was perplexed’ – Who is this guy? Turn to **Luke 23**
- ‘he sought to see Him’ – Why? So that he could believe and be saved?
- Sadly, no! Herod was interested in what Jesus could do much more than Who He was
- At no point did Jesus interact with Herod until the day He would be crucified – Why? Jesus knew what was in his heart
- **Luke 23:6-8**
- Herod wanted to be entertained by Jesus
- Jesus’ response to Him is a valuable lesson for those who have tried to share the gospel with others
- **Luke 23:9**
- Turn back to **Luke 9**
- Herod’s heart was so hard that even God the Son had no words for him
- Even though Herod didn’t know and didn’t care, this was a proclamation of judgment upon his dark soul

- The message for everyone is, You can't make Jesus be who you want Him to be – not a buddha, rub His belly for luck, not a magic genie to wish upon, not a dancing monkey to entertain you – He is God
- The disciples finish their first mission trip without Jesus
- **Luke 9:10**
- They came back pretty excited about what God had done through them
- Mark's gospel tells us Jesus looks at them and can see that they are tired – calls them away to rest
- When you are ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit it can be exhilarating, but it can also be exhausting
- Jesus is about to bring the issue of His identity into clear focus and He wants to get the disciples into just the right place to do it
- Jesus wants some alone-time with the disciples
- The multitudes didn't get the memo and seem to interrupt the plan
- **Luke 9:11**
- This interruption was a part of God's plan to reveal Christ's identity to the disciples
- Says, 'He received them' – Jesus welcomed the multitudes
- Jesus' plan was God's plan – this was God's plan, so Jesus welcomed it
- Things don't always go the way we want, but they always go the way God wants
- If you want to be more like Jesus welcome God's plan, even when it is an interruption of your plan
- Before we look at the next verse, let's remember Jesus is trying to get the disciples away so they can rest
- The multitude shows up and Jesus and the disciples ministering to the thousands of people who have gathered
- This helps me to understand why the disciples did what we read next
- **Luke 9:12**
- They're tired, they have no food, and there is not a Chick-fil-A nearby
- Even though they had been empowered by Jesus, they were tired, and this seemed like an impossible situation
- Faith often is weakened when the body is weak, either tired or sick

- Jesus has a plan – to push the disciples beyond their preconceived limits and to reveal once again that He is who He says He is
 - **Luke 9:13**
 - This is impossible – the need is too great – it can't be done
 - Turn to **Matthew 28**
 - It is not uncommon for God to ask His people to do the impossible
 - He is not being unfair or unreasonable
 - He is not setting them up to fail
 - He is preparing them to see the power of God at work
 - If you are a believer today, God has asked you to do the impossible – every one of us
 - **Matthew 28:18-20**
 - We refer to that as the Great Commission
 - Turn back to **Luke 9**
 - Who is that for? Every single believer who has ever lived, or will live
 - If you are thinking, I can't – that's impossible – I don't have what it takes to do that – Are you sure?
 - That's what the disciples thought
 - **Luke 9:14-17**
 - Jesus gave them an impossible task and told them to bring what little they had
 - He took a boy's lunch and fed five thousand men until they were full
 - Jesus was teaching His disciples and us to trust Him in the impossible times
- God can't teach us to trust Him to help us with the impossible until we are faced with something impossible!**
- If God has allowed some impossible thing in your life, it is because He wants to reveal His power, love, grace, mercy, or something else to you
 - Once the multitudes are satisfied Jesus leads the disciples away
 - Matthew and Mark's gospels tell us that the next part took place near Caesarea Philippi
 - **Luke 9:18**
 - An interesting question, 'What is the world saying about Me?'
 - Jesus already knew the answer to His question – He is making a point

- **Luke 9:19**
- Jesus' ministry was to the Jews almost exclusively
- They were waiting for a Messiah – a Savior – a Deliverer
- They were waiting for Jesus **John 1:10-11**
- **He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.**
- Then Jesus makes it personal
- **Luke 9:20a**
- Every human on earth needs to answer that question
- And the world has some pretty bizarre answers for that
- Islam says that Jesus was a great prophet, but not God
- Some say He is a good moral man, or teacher
- Some say He is a symbol made up by religion of perfect holiness
- Some of the cults say Jesus is a son of God but not the Son of God
- Most of the world says He never existed
- As with any truth, there is only one right answer – Peter speaks up for the disciples
- **Luke 9:20b**
- Everyone but Judas believed that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah
- The problem was that they didn't really understand what that meant, and Jesus knew that, which is why He says what comes next
- **Luke 9:21**
- All Israel was expecting the Messiah to deliver them from the Romans
- Jesus knew if more people believed He was the Messiah they would try to force Him to be king of Israel
- But that was not why He was here
- Tells the disciples what is coming
- **Luke 9:22**
- Turn to **Isaiah 53**
- About 700 years earlier the prophet Isaiah, writing to the Jews told them what would happen to the Messiah – how He would be treated
- **Isaiah 53:1-8**
- Starting here we will see a shift in the gospel of Luke
- Jesus sets His course for Jerusalem and the cross with a couple of detours along the way

- Herod was perplexed and wondered ‘Who is Jesus?’
- You could Google it – first result

AD 30 / 33), also referred to as Jesus of Nazareth and Jesus Christ, was a first-century Jewish preacher and religious leader. He is the central figure of Christianity. Most Christians believe he is the incarnation of God the Son and the awaited Messiah (Christ) prophesied in the Old Testament.

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- ‘Who is Jesus?’ is not the question that we need to be able to answer
- The right question is, ‘Who is Jesus to me?’
- Most of the world is wrong about who Jesus is – that was true when He was walking with His disciples and it is true today
- Who is Jesus to you? It is a question with eternal consequences
- Pastor Randy is going to lead us in Communion – it is time to decide what you believe
- As Pastor Randy comes up, take a moment and think about who Jesus is to you