

Luke 9:10-11

¹ Then Jesus called the Twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and power to cure diseases. ² And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. ³ “Take nothing for the journey,” He told them, “no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no second tunic. ⁴ Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that area. ⁵ If anyone does not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that town, as a testimony against them.” ⁶ So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.

⁷ When Herod the Tetrarch heard about all that was happening, he was perplexed. For some were saying that John had risen from the dead, ⁸ others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that a prophet of old had arisen. ⁹ “I beheaded John,” Herod said, “but who is this man I hear such things about?” And he kept trying to see Jesus.

¹⁰ Then the apostles returned and reported to Jesus all that they had done. Taking them away privately, He withdrew to a town called Bethsaida. ¹¹ But the crowds found out and followed Him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and He healed those who needed healing.

Berean Study Bible

1

Time out. Luke 9:10-11

Report to Jesus. 10a

I need to keep returning to Jesus. 10a “returned to Jesus”

I need to keep talking to Jesus. 10a “reported all they had done”

Relax with Jesus. 10b “away privately”

Back down from what I do. 10b “taking them away”

Back down to what I know. 10b “Bethsaida” (home town, John 1:44)

Review by Jesus. 11

Opportunity is everywhere. 11 “He welcomed them”

Opportunity for repetition. 11 repeat of 4:43, 8:1, and 9:2

2

Me and Jesus are like this. Luke 9:10-11

What I do for Jesus. 10a

I need to go out for Jesus. 9:2,6 “He sent them out... they set out...”

I need to come back to Jesus. 10a “returned and reported”

What Jesus does for me. 10b

Jesus wants me in a private place. 10b “away privately”
Jesus wants me in a comfortable place. 10b “Bethsaida” (home town, John 1:44)

What Jesus does with me. 11

Jesus ignores me. 11 “...welcomed them ...them ...those...”
Jesus shields me. 11 “He welcomed them” He focused on the crowd.

3

Road to recovery. Luke 9:10-11

Return to Jesus. 10a “returned to Jesus” (not return to a negative place)
Go back to who Jesus is.
Go back to what Jesus wants.

Report to Jesus. 10a “reported all they had done” (not what others had done)
Tell Jesus my successes.
Tell Jesus my failures.

Remain with Jesus. 10b “away privately”
Withdraw with safe people. “them; the apostles”
Withdraw to a safe place. “away privately”

Release to Jesus. 11 “He... and He... and He...” (not cross boundaries)
Allow God to do His work in others.
Allow God to do His work in me.

4

No backseat driving. Luke 9:10-11

Come back to Jesus. 10a
Return to Jesus after their successes. 6, 10a “returned to Jesus”
Report to Jesus all that happened. 10a “reported all to Jesus”

Come further back with Jesus. 10b
I need time away from success. 10b “Taking them away”
I need time away for success. 10b “Taking them away privately”

Fade into the background for Jesus. 11
Jesus wants the best for others. 11a “He welcomed them”
Jesus does the best for others. 11b “He spoke... and... those who needed”

Quality time-wasting. Luke 9:10-11

Not 'wasting quality time', but wasting time in a 'quality' way.

Quality time-wasting only comes after quality time working. 10a

Quality time began by knowing what to do. 2 "He sent them out to..."

Quality time is doing what you know. 6 "So they set out and..."

Quality time is knowing when to stop doing. 10a "...returned from all they had done"

Quality time-wasting only comes by choosing no time working. 10b

Quality time happens in a quality head-space. 10b "away"

Quality time happens in a quality relationship. 10b "privately"

Quality time happens in a quality place. 10b "a town called Bethsaida"

Quality time-wasting only comes when I spend no time working. 11

Quality time is when life does not depend on me. 11a "followed Him" (not them)

Quality time is when others do what I can do. 11 "He... and He... and He..."

Quality time is when the focus is on priorities. 11 "Kingdom... and... needed"

6

You did what! Luke 9:10-11

What I've been doing in the past needs constant review.

The past stays in the past. 2,6 "He sent them out... they set out..."

The past needs truth to say in the past. 10a "reported all"

The past needs perspective to stay in the past. 10a "reported to Jesus"

What I need to be doing in the present needs constant refreshing.

I need to move beyond the past. 10b "Taking them away"

I need to move into the next stage. 10b "withdrew to"

What I will be doing in the future needs constant reminding.

My attitude for the future is positive. 11 "He welcomed"

My focus for the future is the Jesus focus. 11 "Kingdom of God"

My actions for the future are beneficial. 11 "Jesus spoke... and healed"

7

Make the most of the moment. Luke 9:10-11

...by being present in the world. 10a

...by actively do all you can do. 10a "all they had done"

Jesus sends us out to say. 2 "proclaim the Kingdom" (eg of witnessing)

Jesus sends us out to do. 2 "heal the sick" (eg of healing)

...by honestly report all you did. 10a "reported all"

Some of my experiences have been positive (examples)
Some of my experiences have been negative (examples)

...by being present in the church. 10b

...by relinquishing power and control. 10a "He took them"

Giving worship (who God is) and praise (what God does)

Restoring perspective (Jesus is Lord, I am His bond-slave)

...by receiving personal interaction. 10a "them privately"

Jesus wants personal interaction with me

Jesus wants private interaction with me

...by being present in the Presence.

...by being part of His acceptance of others. 11 "He welcomed them"

Understand they motives may be selfish.

Understand their needs are based in sin.

...by being part of His transformation of others. 11b "spoke... who needed..."

Jesus first addressed their spiritual need. "spoke about the Kingdom"

Jesus lastly addressed physical needs. "needed healing"

8

Coping with annoying people. Luke 9:10-11

Annoyance is low-level anger and frustration resulting from unfulfilled desires.

No one is very annoying when I'm in control. 10

Happiness is when my public desires are fulfilled. 10a "all they had done"

Happiness is when my private desires are fulfilled. 10b "away privately"

Anyone can be annoying when they are in control. 11a

Annoyance is when my information is disclosed. 11a "crowds found out"

Annoyance is when my program is disturbed. 11a "and followed"

Everyone is less annoying when Jesus is in control. 11b

Resume happiness by adopting a positive attitude. 11b "welcomed them"

Resume happiness by speaking a positive message. 11b "spoke about Kingdom"

Resume happiness by doing positive things. 11b "healed those who needed"

9

Where is God when plans don't work out? Luke 9:10-11

From the poem *To a Mouse*, by Robert Burns (1759-1796)

The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men, Gang aft a-gley,

An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain, For promis'd joy.

When plans go as expected, is God in it? 10

God is sovereign when things are going my way.

God is sovereign, even when it looks like I am in charge. 10a “they had done”
God is sovereign, even when it looks like I am blessed. 10b “taking them”

When plans don't go as expected, is God in it? 11

God is sovereign when things are not going my way. Genesis 50:20 “but God”
God is sovereign, even when it looks like I am not in charge. 11a “but the crowds”
God is sovereign, and He wants everyone to be blessed. 11b
 God wants me to have the best relationship. 11b “He welcomed”
 God wants me to have the best understanding. 11b “spoke re the Kingdom”
 God wants me to have the best experience. 11b “those who needed”

10

How to bounce back. Luke 9:10-11

How to bounce back from success. 10

Return - disengage. 10a “returned”
Report - describe. 10a “reported”
Review - detail. 10a “all they had done”
Refresh - debrief. 10b “away... withdrew”

How to bounce back from failure. 11

Maintain perspective. 11a “followed Him” (It's not about me)
Maintain reality. 11a “crowds... them... them... those” (It's always about people)
Maintain focus. 11b “about the Kingdom of God” (keep the big picture in sight)
Maintain boundaries. 11b “those who needed” (not ‘...wanted’)

11

Taking turns. Luke 9:10-11

My turn. 10a

When it's my turn, I need to step out. 2 “He sent them out”
When my turn is over, I need to step back. 10a “return and reported all”

Jesus' turn. 10b

Jesus' priorities include private time. 10b “taking them away privately”
Jesus' priorities include a safe place. 10b “withdrew to... Bethsaida”

Their turn. 11a

There are no secrets. So be honest. 11a “the crowds found out”
There is no seclusion. So be faithful. 11a “and followed”

Jesus' turn. 11b

Everything is an opportunity to speak. 11b “welcomed and spoke re Kingdom”
Everything is an opportunity for boundaries. 11b “those who needed”

12

Making my life count for something worthwhile. Luke 9:10-11

Live for the cause bigger than you. 10a

The biggest cause is from the biggest source. 2 "Jesus sent them out"

The biggest cause makes the biggest change. 2 "to proclaim the Kingdom"

The biggest cause has the biggest impact. 10a "reported all"

Live for the cause independent of you. 10

The biggest cause doesn't need me. 10a "returned"

The biggest cause functions without me. 10b "away privately"

The biggest cause needs a fresh me. 10b "withdrew"

Live for the cause to connect to people. 11

The biggest cause attracts attention. 11a "crowds found out"

The biggest cause needs to speak clearly. 11b "spoke re Kingdom"

The biggest cause addresses needs. 11b "needed"

13

Are you abnormal? Luke 9:10-11

The normal Christian life is obedience to Jesus. 10a

Normal is listening and actioning. Are you abnormal, or normal?

Normal is returning and reporting. Are you abnormal, or normal?

The normal Christian life is withdrawal with Jesus. 10b

Normal is private time with Jesus. Are you abnormal, or normal?

Normal is private time with believers. Are you abnormal, or normal?

The normal Christian life is allowing Jesus to act. 11

Normal is a Christlike welcome for outsiders. Are you abnormal, or normal?

Normal is a Christlike message for outsiders. Are you abnormal, or normal?

Normal is a Christlike assistance for outsiders. Are you abnormal, or normal?

14

Doing God's will. Luke 9:10-17

Doing God's will is a process. Luke 9:10-11

Action needs to be followed by reflection 9:10

Action will be followed by more action 9:11a

Action happens out of attitude 9:11b

Positive attitude; positive action. Negative attitude; negative action

Doing God's will is familiar 9:12-14a

New situation, same basic needs 9:12

New situation, same personal challenge 9:13a

New situation, same resource challenge 9:13b-14a

Your greatest resources are already within you

Doing God's will is miraculous 9:14b-17

Be organised and orderly 9:14b-15

Be thankful and generous 9:16-17a

Be aware and respectful 9:17b

Other possible titles

RDO (Rostered Day Off).

R and R (rest and recreation) (in the military: 'rest and recuperation').

Quality QT (Quiet Time).

How to have a quality Quiet Time.

Strategic Withdrawal.

Transform minimum quantity into maximum quality.

Here comes the crowd.

Who is in the driver's seat?

How do you measure success?

How successful people succeed.

Two steps forward. One step back.

Back and forth. To and fro. Ebb and flow.

Music and songs

Songs about being quiet with God

Be still and know that I am God. 114

Be still for the presence of the Lord. 527

Drinking at the springs of Living Water. CWH 86

Fear not, for God is with you. SiS 505

God is our strength and refuge.

Hide me now, under Your wings. / Still. 1003

I come to the garden alone.

I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene. CH 378

Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Let there be peace on earth. HCJ 28

Just like a child. FE 107

Moment by moment. H 684

My faith has found a resting place. H 669

Now it is Jesus and me. CWH 44

O God our help in ages past. H 82

O how I love Jesus. CWH 20
O soul are you weary... Turn your eyes upon Jesus. 805
Refresh my heart. Ot 89
Safe am I.
Seek ye first the Kingdom of God. SiS 96
The chimes of time... It is no secret.
The old rugged cross. H 678
There is a quiet place. FE 74
There's a quiet understanding. FE 21
Way of wisdom (Michael Card)
We worship You, Almighty God. SiS 561
When I look into Your holiness. SiS 662
When peace like a river... Is it well with my soul. H 707 / Ch 237
Whisper a prayer in the morning. CWH 85
Whispering hope. CWH 21
You are my hiding place. 673
You are the vine. SiS 678
You're already there.

Songs about God's Kingdom
Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.

Thought starters for personal reflection or group study

1. What was it like - learning to ride a bicycle?
 2. The apostles were doing just fine without Jesus (v6). Why would they walk away from personal success to return to Jesus?
 3. When the apostles returned to Jesus, what did they report to Him? Why are we not told about details their successes or their failures?
 4. Since God knows everything (omniscience) why should I tell Him anything?
 5. What is my position in Matthew 12:36 and Romans 14:12? Does that look more like a threat or an encouragement?
 6. What characteristics make for good friendships. Which is strongest in you?
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