



READING LUKE WITH GRACE

Chapters 9-10

Chapter 9

- Jesus sends out the twelve disciples
- Herod wonders “who is this?”
- Jesus and the disciples feed the five thousand
- Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah
- Jesus foretells death and resurrection (and explains that any who want to be followers will need to take up their cross daily)
- Jesus is “transfigured” (appears with Moses and Elijah)
- Jesus heals a boy with a demon (after disciples couldn’t)



Chapter 9 (cont'd)

- Jesus again foretells his death
- Disciples argue over who's greatest
- Disciples complain about another exorcist

9:51

- Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem
- Samaritan Village refuses to receive Jesus
- Would-be followers give excuses



Chapter 10

- Jesus sends out 70 disciples
- Jesus speaks “woes” to unrepentant cities
- The 70 return
- Jesus rejoices in the Holy Spirit for revelations to infants
- Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan
- Jesus visits Martha and Mary



In your reading of your targeted chapter (9 or 10), what stood out to you? Did you have any “aha” moments or questions arise?

Healings and Demons

13 healing episodes in Luke, many related to “demons”

“Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal...They departed and went through the villages, **bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.**” (9:1, 9:6)

[sending out the 70 disciples] “**cure the sick** who are there, and say to them, “**The kingdom of God has come near to you.**” (10:9)



Why are there so many healing stories in this gospel (and others)? What are we to make of them?

And why do “demons” figure so prominently—and what are we to make of those?

- “We may glibly proclaim that modern science has done away with demons, and that we know better. But is it that simple? Have we really explained evil? Perhaps a person’s illness can be understood on the basis of genetic factors, **but does that really do away with the evil of the disease? Does it make the disease less painful?**” (Gonzalez, p. 71)
- “**The realities of domestic violence, world hunger, and the like are much more demonic** than some little devil with a pitchfork and horns sitting on our shoulder making evil suggestions.” (Gonzalez, p. 71)

- Jesus didn't just heal, **he touched them**. Embraced them, these people who were outsiders, and he embraced other disparaged members of society, "sinners" such as prostitutes, tax collectors, Samaritans, Gentiles, the sick, the blind, and the deaf. (RHE, p. 184)
- Jeffrey John (in *The Meaning of Miracles*) says the healing stories "seem to have been deliberately selected by the evangelists to show **Jesus healing at least every category of persons who, according to the purity laws of Jesus's society, were specifically excluded and labeled unclean.**" (RHE, p. 184)