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On YouTube: @htchurch

*Save the date for our next Saturday Seminar on the morning of April 25.
We'll have breakfast at 9 am, then our seminar from 9:30 until about noon!*

Take up your cross (9:23-27)

23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? 26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels. 27 But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God."

- The shock of hearing "take up the cross!" We no longer have lives of our own.
- Live in the light of the coming day that Jesus points us to.
- We live in the Kingdom now, but it hasn't yet been made manifest as it will be.

Transfiguration (9:28-36)

28 Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. [cont'd]

30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. 33 Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. 34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. 35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” 36 When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.

- Eight in Scripture speaks of a new beginning.
- Luke gives us another view of Jesus’ prayer life. It was once thought that this was Mount Tabor, but many scholars now think it was Mount Hermon.
- The veil of Jesus’ humanity was briefly lifted, and His glory revealed.
- Moses and Elijah represent the prophets that pointed to Jesus.
- Jesus is the only person who ever “accomplished” a death!
- Perhaps Peter thought the Kingdom was about to come and that God would tabernacle with His people again, as was prophesied.
- God’s Voice redirects their focus onto Jesus alone – He must be listened to, even above Moses and Elijah. God had previously said “**You** are My Son,” but now He was saying, “**This** is My Son!”

The demonized boy (9:37-42)

37 Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him. 38 Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, “Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. 39 And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. 40 So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” 41 Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” 42 And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father.

- Matthew 17:21 tells us how Jesus said that this kind only comes out through prayer and fasting. Jesus was living a “fasted lifestyle.”

Jesus predicts His death again; the least and the greatest (9:43-48)

43 And they were all amazed at the majesty of God. But while everyone marveled at all the things which Jesus did, He said to His disciples, 44 “Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men.” 45 But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying. 46 Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. [cont’d]

47 And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him, 48 and said to them, “Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great.”

- Jesus was focused on His soon-coming suffering and humiliation. His disciples are afraid to ask Him about what He had said.
- He will be betrayed into the hands of **men**, not just the Jewish leaders.
- Here is the first of several arguments among the disciples as to which was the greatest. In God’s Kingdom, the way **up** is actually **down**, and vice versa.
- Would anyone have the humility to receive a child in the Name of the Lord?

Heading to Jerusalem; what kind of spirit are we? (9:49-56)

49 Now John answered and said, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us.” 50 But Jesus said to him, “Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side.”

51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, 52 and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. 53 But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. 54 And when His disciples James and John saw this... [cont’d]

...they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" 55 But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. 56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.

- Jesus has now "steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem."
- Here we see the danger of being too narrow. The disciples could not accept this man, who seems to have had some success in using Jesus' Name. How accepting are we of believers in Christ who may not be partnering with us?
- The history of the Jews and Samaritans is a bitter one. Jews had no dealings with Samaritans, and to be called a Samaritan was a grave insult.
- The Samaritans often did not mind people traveling through their area, but there could be often confrontations. Going through Samaria was a useful shortcut for people traveling in between Galilee in the north and Jerusalem in the south.
- Again we see why James and John were called *Sons of Thunder*. Later, in Acts 8, there would be a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Samaria, and John would lay hands upon Samaritans to be baptized in the Holy Spirit!
- It seems that Jesus says nothing to the Samaritans and just "moves on."

Consider the cost (9:57-62)

57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." [cont'd]

59 Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

61 And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

- Jesus helps people to count the cost of discipleship – which may include giving up even the normal things of life.
- The first man offered himself to the Lord out of enthusiasm and zeal. Jesus checks his zeal with a dose of reality to cure him of his romanticism.
- The second man received a definite call from Christ.
 - What did it mean to bury his father, and how do we understand Jesus' response to let the dead bury their own dead?
 - Abraham didn't fully follow God until after his father died (see Acts 7:4).
 - The claims of Christ can be stronger than family duties.
- The third man was too attached to his old life. Elisha made a farewell feast, but perhaps we cannot!

Jesus sends out the Seventy (10:1-12)

1 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. [cont'd]

2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. 3 Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. 4 Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. 5 But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' 6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. 7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. 8 Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. 9 And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10 But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 11 'The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.' 12 But I say to you that it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for that city."

- The number 70 had great symbolic significance that spoke of eldership. Seventy was the number of the elders of Israel.
- Church tradition says that many famous men of the early Church were among the 70, including Barnabas and others.
- Jesus believed in being prepared and in thinking strategically – and His expectation was that the Harvest is great and not small! The problem isn't with the harvest itself but with the small number of workers.
- Jesus warned them about the reality of evangelistic work.
- The phrase "son of..." was an expression meaning someone who exemplified those qualities. A "son of peace" was kind, hospitable, and gracious.

- Finding the man of peace was the key to Jesus' entire strategy of outreach.
- The 70 are sent with authority to heal and to announce the Kingdom of God.
- Some would reject Jesus' messengers, and that would be equivalent to rejecting Him. Jesus does not sugarcoat things for us!
- The shaking off of the dust of a place was a terrible (and offensive) sign. It meant that such a village had been cut off from God's workings and purposes.
- Jesus teaches us the sobering truth that those who sin against greater light will receive a stricter examination and judgment. "Sodom had no Bible." But in any case, God will be perfectly fair in how He judges people!

Woes against the unrepentant cities (10:13-16)

13 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades. 16 He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."

- If people see the mighty works of the Lord, Jesus says they might repent!
- Capernaum was highly favored because of the Lord's ministry there.
- Hearing Jesus and seeing His works brings an awesome responsibility.
