

*** Read Luke 9:37–51.**

*** Reread Luke 9:28–36** to review who was up on the mountain and what happened there.

1. On his return from his glorious mountaintop experience, Jesus is met by a desperate man. What problem does this man bring to Jesus? (vv. 38–39; * Mk. 9:21–22)
2. What happened while Jesus was up on the mountain that would have increased the man's desperation?¹ (v. 40)
3. Jesus statement in verse 41 is surprising. What does he say?

Why do you think he gives this startling response? (You may wish to consider Mt. 17:20 and Mk. 9:28–29.  Note the additional chaos that Mark records in Mk. 9:14–18.)

4. What is the outcome of this episode?
v. 42b

v. 43a

*** Read Luke 9:43b–45.**

5. In verse 44 Jesus makes another pronouncement. What is it?

“The introduction Jesus gives to the disciples [in verse 44] indicates the remark’s solemnity: ‘Let these words sink into your ears.’”²

*** Read Luke 9:49-51.**

8. What do you think motivates John's statement in verse 49?

9. How does Jesus once again set the disciples straight? (v. 50)

10. Luke has shown Jesus establishing a kingdom that is the opposite of every kingdom that has ever been established on earth. Human systems run on the getting and maintaining of power; as mere humans, the disciples assume that the Messiah and his kingdom work the same way.

Review the following verses, and note how the values of Jesus' kingdom completely overturn the expectations of fallen humans.

1:46-53

6:20, 24

6:21a, 25a

6:21b, 25b

6:22-23, 26

6:27-29

7:39-47

9:48c

“The disciples did not understand Jesus' role as the Suffering Servant and so could not grasp its implications for them as his disciples. They were still thinking of the Messiah only in terms of triumph, assuming, quite naturally, that their position was important.”⁴

11. Verse 51 notes that “As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.” At this point in Luke’s Gospel, Jesus will enter another stage of his ministry, one that will eventually lead to the things he has predicted: his suffering, betrayal, rejection, and death in Jerusalem. How will the King himself live out the upside-down (or, perhaps better, “right-side-up”) values upon which he is building his kingdom?
Mk. 10:42–45

Phil. 2:5–8

12. In the next part of Luke, Jesus will continue to teach the disciples about the kingdom and prepare them for his death—but these are hard lessons that do not seem to make sense to them. We have the advantage of being able to look back and see the way God’s plan holds together. What will the ultimate outcome be of this unexpected, upside-down plan?
Lk. 24:26

Phil. 2:9–11

Rev. 5:9–13

*📖 For further study

¹ Darrell L. Bock, *Luke 1:1—9:50* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1994), 882.

² *Ibid.* 888.

³ *Ibid.* 894–95.

⁴ Frank E. Gaebelin, Gen. Ed. *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary with the New International Version of the Holy Bible in Twelve Volumes*. Vol. 8 (Matthew, Mark, Luke) (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), 931.