

Kingdom Apprentice

Luke 9:1-17

Vicarious Experience

What does it mean to experience something vicariously?

When I imagine that I am doing something
but I am just watching someone else who is actually do it

What can be good about vicarious experiences?

What can be bad about vicarious experiences?

I don't live life myself, and I don't grow
I just imagine life through people/books/movies/YouTube/...

Ask God for a (deeper) first person experience of the power of Jesus

The Geography of Luke

Galilee and Judea: around Jesus' birth 1:1-2:52

Galilee: recruiting and training the disciples 3:1-9:50

to Jerusalem: training part 2: suffering and death 9:51-19:27

in Jerusalem: ministry, death, resurrection, ascension 19:28-24:53

Luke 9:1-17

1-6: The apostles brought the Kingdom of God near

The 12 had seen and heard a lot!

Teaching: like "4 soils" and "love your enemies"

Miracles over nature: storm calmed

Healing: woman with bleeding, dead girl

Demons driven out: Legion & sins forgiven

He gave power (healing) and authority (demons)

With special instructions (travel light, include people)

Sent to proclaim the Kingdom of God=Gospel

"God rules, and this is what it's like!"

Sent to heal and cast out demons

What Jesus did, they now do

7-9: Herod (and others) were perplexed: who is doing this??

Word spread about Jesus as everyone is amazed

Especially: one person with amazing power was giving that power to others

It was the start of a new era (a new Kingdom)

Why tell us about Herod here?

Luke highlights the core issue:

An amazing thing is happening when people do the works of Jesus

We cannot understand or join what is happening without knowing Jesus

10: Apostles returned and reported success to Jesus

Their first internship was a success!

Their needs were met

They had proclaimed and healed

Now it was time for another lesson...

Perhaps Jesus chose a deserted place to go

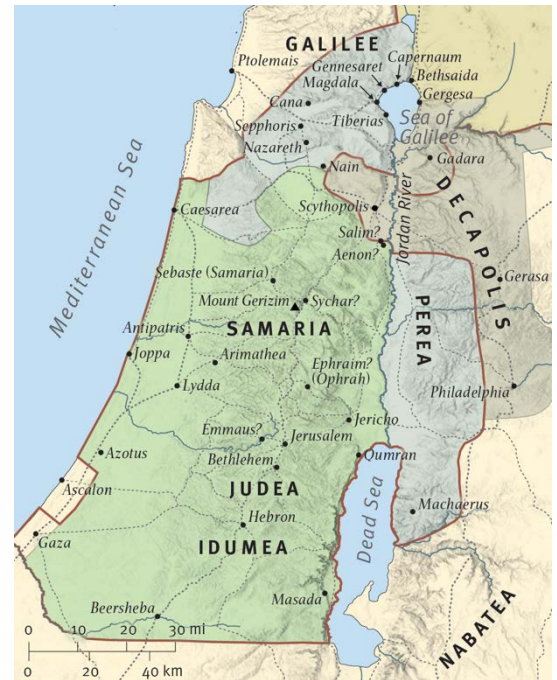
11-17: Apostles had more to learn: Jesus showed the way

Jesus did the same as He told the apostles to do

Proclaimed the Kingdom of God, and healed

In the desolate place (chosen by Jesus), the apostles suggested that people take care of their own needs

Jesus: "You feed them"



Apostles: "We can't do it"

Jesus: "Then you help me"

Gather what we have

Look to heaven (!): give thanks and bless it

Distribute what we have

Pick up the extras(!)

The Big Idea

The Kingdom of God

Includes head, hands & heart

Truth: proclaim the Gospel = the Kingdom of God

Key: the work and words of Jesus

Action: using His power, authority, and resources to bless people

More than mere necessities!

Relationship: so that people will SEE and KNOW King Jesus

comes by the power of God

Know that Jesus never lacks power, authority, or resources

Even when all we see is limitations...

Be ready to pick up the leftovers!

Sometimes He chooses to show us OUR limitations so that ...

we look to Him

everyone knows Jesus did it!

When we lack what is needed for a Gospel need...

Gather what we have

Look to heaven: give thanks and seek God's blessing on it & us

Make use of what we have, even if it doesn't seem to be enough

Pick up the extras(!)

through the people of God

Jesus could do it all on His own but He chooses to give power by His Spirit to His people for the work

First the 12: empowered and sent

Then 72: empowered and sent

Jesus said: "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Then the church

as we obey Jesus

Learning comes AS we obey

Power comes AS we obey

Our obedience comes in many forms, yet they all require faith:

Attitude

Belief & trust

Action: support roles, physical roles, word roles

Application

Be an apprentice of Jesus

Learning occurs as we do what Christ commands

Not: learn how to love today so eventually we can love others

Rather: choose to love people in Christ today, and we'll grow

Step & sometimes stumble. Then apologize & confess & repent

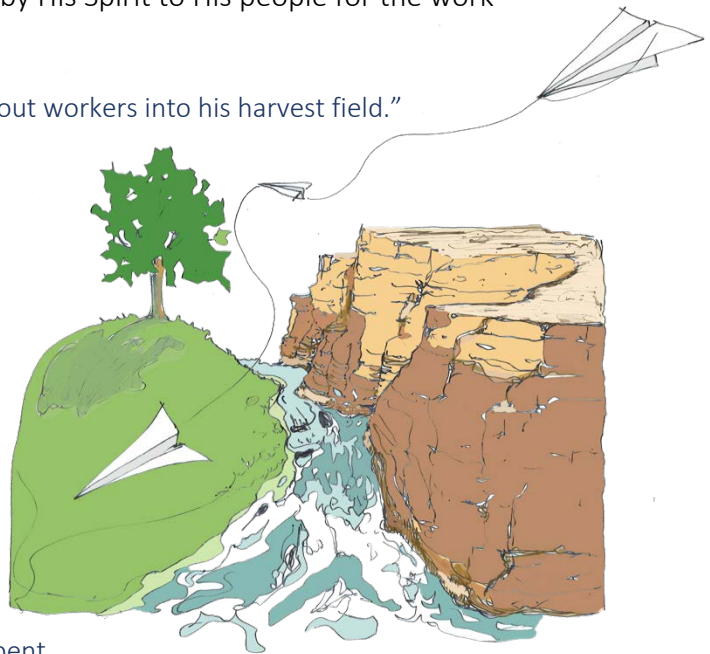
Then repeat, over and over

Our character is transformed. Christ lives in us. People are loved.

The power comes as we do what Christ commands

Not: once the resources arrive, we begin to obey

Rather: we obey the Word and the Spirit, trusting God to provide as provision is needed



Where is Christ calling you to obey today?

Love God: know His Word, pray, worship, leave other gods

Love people: 1 Corinthians 13

Bring blessing to people: head, heart, hands

Point people to Jesus, especially His startling gift of forgiveness and restoration

Take steps every day, before your head hits the pillow

We pray that people would be perplexed today!

When many people are bringing the Kingdom of God closer through their words and their actions, empowered by Jesus

Disciple others in this work, creating space for their obedience

Create opportunities for others to join Kingdom work

Sometimes the whole thing: like Jesus sending the apostles out

Sometimes just a part: as apostles told people to sit down

Be looking for ways for others to do all or part of what you do

Crossway Kids! Raising kids. Not-yet-believers. Ministry teams. Life Groups. Every one of us!

Conclusion

Ask God for a (deeper) first person experience of the power of Jesus

Be an apprentice of Jesus today

Obey the Word and the Spirit, trusting God to be present

Gather what you have (strength, power, resources, ...)

Look to heaven, giving thanks and seeking blessing

Then use what you have to do the work He directs

And be ready to pick up the leftovers!

Reflection Questions

1. What does it look like to proclaim the Kingdom of God (the Gospel) today?
2. What does it look like to bless people with the power of God today?
3. When Jesus told the apostles to feed the crowd of over 5,000 people, they had a very clear awareness that they didn't have what it would take to feed the people. Where in your life are you aware of your lack of resources or inability to do the work of the Kingdom of God?
4. What does it look like for you to follow the model Jesus gives when what we have is not enough for what he calls us to do?
5. Where are you living as an apprentice of Jesus?