

Following Jesus

Luke 9:18-36

Building Blocks

What are other kinds of building blocks used to make things?

What are the building blocks of the Kingdom of God?

Our prayer: 2 Kings 6:17

The Gospel of Luke

It tells the story of our Salvation

It tells the story of Jesus making disciples

Chapter 9 is a huge turning point!

“Further up and further in” to the heart of God

Luke 9:18-36

18-20: Jesus' question & Peter's answer: Jesus is God's Messiah

Prayer is key to Jesus' unfolding story

Jesus' identity is key for life

The people thought...

Clearly a great man who had the power of God

Perhaps one of the greatest prophets returned to life

What did the apostles believe?

God's Messiah (Christ/Anointed One)

God's promised one

The One who brought God's Kingdom to earth

21-22: Jesus' revelation: He will suffer, die & come back to life

Very serious command: tell no one He is Messiah

Why keep silent?

God's ideas are very different from people's ideas!

For the people AND the disciples

→ Christ and nationalism don't mix!

Challenging idea: God's Messiah must suffer and die

“must”: God's perfect plan; not an accident or trap

Will be rejected by the most powerful people

To suffer and die

Yet it won't end with suffering and death

He will be “raised to life” on the third day

23-27: Jesus' call: all disciples must follow this hard road too

Jesus' warning applies to all (not just a few) → us too

Following Jesus means following the hard road

Entirely stop serving self and obeying self...shocking!

Every (ordinary) day

Like Peter did to Jesus: “I don't even know the man”

Because:

Serving & obeying self kills you; serving Christ gives life

The world can give fading stuff; it cannot give true life

Denying Jesus means Jesus will deny us in His great glory

So follow the road Jesus is on...with Him

Some will see & know His kingdom before they die

28-36: God's revelation: Jesus is the glorious Son of God

Again Jesus was praying: another weighty event

Special learning for Peter, John, and James

Jesus' glory was seen more clearly

Moses & Elijah join Jesus, and consider His suffering
So Jesus isn't Moses or Elijah!

Peter wanted to prolong event with 3 equal shelters

God corrected Peter (very dramatically & directly!)

Jesus is the only One! (even in His suffering)

Son of God

Chosen One of God

Submit to Jesus above all else

The Big Idea

Jesus is the Son of God

Worship/submit to Him

He is greater than the greatest human

He is in a completely different category!

Perfect in power, holiness & love

His glory is beyond anything we can handle

yet He suffered to death

What an incredible Savior!

He suffered intensely & unjustly

His Father abandoned Him

To show His love for people who denied Him

to bring us life

What an incredible Savior!

He suffered to death so we can experience life and joy and wholeness and peace forever

so we will live like Him

We are to share His glory

which means we must also share His suffering

Deny ourselves

Take up our cross daily

Follow Him

Building Blocks of God's Kingdom

Eternity past: self-giving love

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in self-giving love for the others

Creation: a new object for God to love

a perfect world designed around God-centered selfless love

God gives of Himself beyond the Godhead

Fall: Adam & Eve went their own way

God-centered → other things take the center (serpent, self, fruit)

Selflessness → self-serving or we-serving

Salvation: God-centered selfless love by God Himself

Serving even to an unjust death ☒ the cross

Given as a gift to all who will receive it

Re-creation: God-centered selfless love by every person

growing now, and perfected when Jesus returns

Building Blocks of God's Kingdom

God-centered selflessness

Jesus obeyed the Father, and was a servant to us until death

So we are called to be holy like Jesus...

To deny ourselves: "I don't even know the man!"

To follow Jesus: His teaching and His example

Why do this?

It is who God iswe love and worship Him

It is how He made the world it is the way of life

Leaving this spoiled the world..... the alternative kills

It is how Jesus rescued the worldHe keeps doing it for us

It is the command of Almighty God we trust His love

Jesus will return one day to share His glory with His disciples

Application

God-centered

Live for His glory → "Hallowed by your name"

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"He must become greater, I must become less." John 3:30

Live according to His teaching above all else

Head: thinking, understanding

Heart: emotions, will, affections

Hands: words and actions

Selflessness

Consider others more important than myself

Peter denied Jesus: "I don't even know the man"

Jesus said: "you must deny yourselves"

I'm not saying:

You and your identity and those you love don't matter

You are not to take responsibility for your life

I am saying

We entrust all that we value to Almighty God who gave Himself for us

We live responsibly in obedience to Christ

We are to do as Jesus did

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

"in humility value others above yourselves" Philippians 2:3-4

Conclusion

God speaks from glory:

"This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

Jesus says to us:

"Follow me."

Reflection Questions

1. How would you describe the nature and character of God to someone who hasn't seen His glory? How might this be different from some common ideas about God?
2. What does it look like for a group of people to be selfless together? Where are Christians tempted to view Jesus as joining "our side"?
3. How would you describe the joy and freedom of living in God-centered selflessness?