

When people can't agree...

When friends can't agree on what to have for dinner...

When friends can't agree on what movie to watch...

When two people can't agree on where to go for vacation...

When God and I don't agree...

1



Don't Look Back!

Luke 9:37-62

bib.ly/Lu9.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts

2

The setting in Luke

Jesus had **many** disciples

Jesus chose **12 of the many** to be Apostles (sent ones)

- Jesus explained: “I am going to suffer and die”
- And to the disciples: “You must take up your crosses daily”

Jesus chose **3 of the 12** for a special mountaintop experience

- When praying, Jesus’ face changed and His clothing became as white as lightning
- Moses & Elijah (2 of the greatest Jewish prophets) appeared and talked with Jesus
- God the Father joined them and said, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; **listen to him.**”

3

Story	Disciples	Jesus
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

4

Luke 9:37-43a: Story 1

The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. A man in the crowd called out, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. I begged your disciples to drive it out, but **they could not.**”

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“You unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.”

Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. And **they were all amazed at the greatness of God.**

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Story	Disciples	Jesus
1	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

7

Story	Disciples	Jesus
1	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	Great power
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

8

Luke 9:43b-45: Story 2

While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, “**Listen carefully** to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to **be delivered into the hands of men.**”

But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that **they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.**

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Story	Disciples	Jesus
1	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	Great power
2		Going to be handed over to suffer and die
3		
4		
5		
6		

10

Story	Disciples	Jesus
1	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	Great power
2	Don't understand & are too afraid to ask (willful ignorance)	Going to be handed over to suffer and die
3		
4		
5		
6		

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Luke 9:46-48: Story 3

An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest."

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Story	Disciples	Jesus
1	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	Great power
2	Don't understand & are too afraid to ask (willful ignorance)	Going to be handed over to suffer and die
3	Which one of us is the greatest?	
4		
5		
6		

13

Story	Disciples	Jesus
1	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	Great power
2	Don't understand & are too afraid to ask (willful ignorance)	Going to be handed over to suffer and die
3	Which one of us is the greatest?	The least among you is the greatest!
4		
5		
6		

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Luke 9:49-50: Story 4

“Master,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us.”

“Do not stop him,” Jesus said, “for whoever is not against you is for you.”

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Story	Disciples	Jesus
1	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	Great power
2	Don't understand & are too afraid to ask (willful ignorance)	Going to be handed over to suffer and die
3	Which one of us is the greatest?	The least among you is the greatest!
4	Stop 'outsiders' who do miracles in Jesus' name	
5		
6		

16

Story	Disciples	Jesus
1	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	Great power
2	Don't understand & are too afraid to ask (willful ignorance)	Going to be handed over to suffer and die
3	Which one of us is the greatest?	The least among you is the greatest!
4	Stop 'outsiders' who do miracles in Jesus' name	Don't stop anyone doing ministry in Jesus' name!
5		
6		

17

Luke 9:51-56: Story 5

As the time approached for him to be **taken up to heaven**, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, **do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?**" But Jesus turned and rebuked them. Then he and his disciples **went to another village.**

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Story	Disciples	Jesus
1	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	Great power
2	Don't understand & are too afraid to ask (willful ignorance)	Going to be handed over to suffer and die
3	Which one of us is the greatest?	The least among you is the greatest!
4	Stop 'outsiders' who do miracles in Jesus' name	Don't stop anyone doing ministry in Jesus' name!
5	Call for God's wrath against people who rejected Jesus	
6		

19

Story	Disciples	Jesus
1	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	Great power
2	Don't understand & are too afraid to ask (willful ignorance)	Going to be handed over to suffer and die
3	Which one of us is the greatest?	The least among you is the greatest!
4	Stop 'outsiders' who do miracles in Jesus' name	Don't stop anyone doing ministry in Jesus' name!
5	Call for God's wrath against people who rejected Jesus	Rebukes the disciples! Then just walks away!
6		

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Luke 9:57-62: Story 6

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

He said to another man, “Follow me.”

But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

Jesus said to him, “Let the (spiritually) dead bury their own (physically) dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

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Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”

Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

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Story	Disciples	Jesus
1	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	Great power
2	Don't understand & are too afraid to ask (willful ignorance)	Going to be handed over to suffer and die
3	Which one of us is the greatest?	The least among you is the greatest!
4	Stop 'outsiders' who do miracles in Jesus' name	Don't stop anyone doing ministry in Jesus' name!
5	Call for God's wrath against people who rejected Jesus	Rebukes the disciples! Then just walks away!
6	Self-praising, hesitations, looking back	

23

Story	Disciples	Jesus
1	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	Great power
2	Don't understand & are too afraid to ask (willful ignorance)	Going to be handed over to suffer and die
3	Which one of us is the greatest?	The least among you is the greatest!
4	Stop 'outsiders' who do miracles in Jesus' name	Don't stop anyone doing ministry in Jesus' name!
5	Call for God's wrath against people who rejected Jesus	Rebukes the disciples! Then just walks away!
6	Self-praising, hesitations, looking back	Don't turn back from following Jesus!

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The Big Idea

**Following Jesus requires
ongoing deep transformation
and full devotion**

Jesus' ways are so often
the opposite of our ways!

Jesus comes before comfort,
security,
family obligation,
and cultural expectations

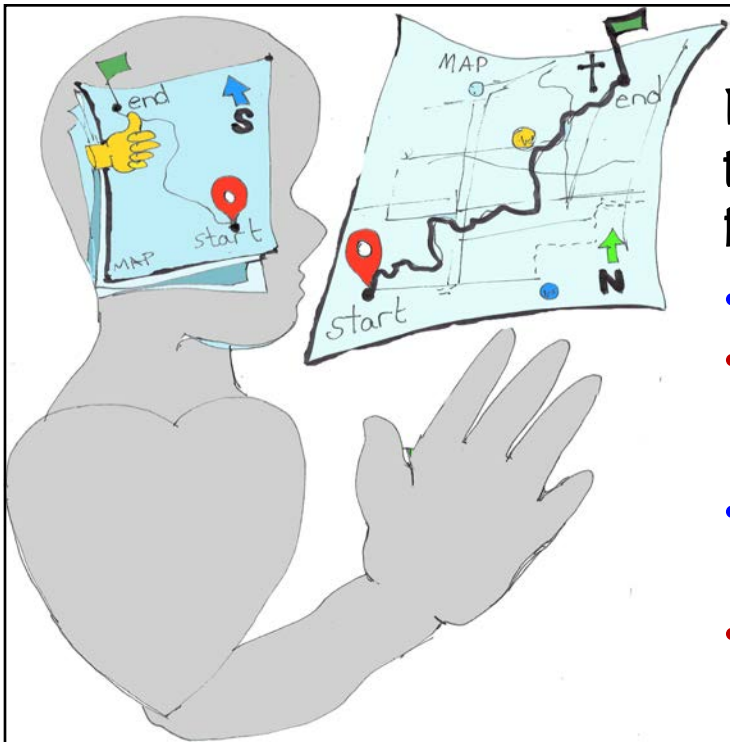
25



Jesus gives us a map
to follow:

- His example ("follow me")
- His teaching
- which includes **"take up your cross daily and follow me"**

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But we have an internal map that is very different from Jesus' map!

- **His** goes through sacrifice
- **Ours** goes through pleasure and success
- **His** requires service to others including our enemies
- **Ours** serves us and ours

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Our hearts also have maps imprinted on them that are very different from His map:

- **His**: love your enemies
- **Ours**: Love people who love us and are good to us
- **His**: Give and forgive
- **Ours**: Treat people the way they have treated us

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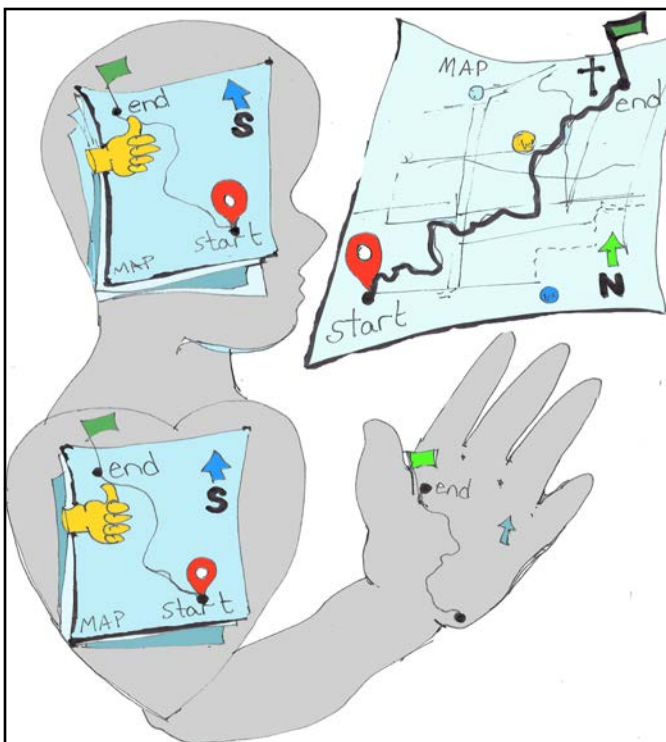


The illustration shows a grey silhouette of a person's head and torso. In their right hand, they hold a large, light blue map labeled 'MAP' with a path from a red 'start' pin to a green 'end' flag. A yellow smiley face is on the path. A north arrow 'N' is at the bottom right. On the person's left palm, a smaller version of the same map is imprinted, also showing the path and 'end' point.

Our hands also have maps imprinted on them that are very different from His map:

- **His:** put others first
- **Ours:** put me and mine first
- **His:** obey God always
- **Ours:** do what seems best to us and helps us the most

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The illustration shows a grey silhouette of a person's head and torso. In their right hand, they hold the large 'MAP' from the previous slide. On their left palm, the smaller imprinted map is visible. Additionally, two smaller versions of the 'MAP' are shown inside the person's head and heart, with a yellow hand icon pointing to the 'end' point on each. The map in the heart also has a blue 'S' at the top right.

**We look at His map
Then we "look back" at our map:**

- We blend His map with the maps in our heads, our hearts, and our hands
- **Often without even realizing it!**

Jesus said: "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

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The Big Idea

**Following Jesus requires
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and cultural expectations

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Application

Follow Jesus humbly and boldly

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Isaiah 55:8-9

Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You
are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the
concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” *Matthew 16:23*

You are looking back at your internal map

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Application

Follow Jesus **humbly** and boldly

- Deep in our mind, our heart, and our hands are ways that are very different from the ways of God
 - **The disciples were proud of their boldness and faith to judge the Samaritan village, and they were so wrong!**
- Rooting out our ways and replacing them with God's ways is a never-ending journey
- Where do we need to grow?
 - we know some areas
 - other areas we don't even know we need to grow yet!

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Application

Follow Jesus **humbly** and boldly

- The disciples were afraid to ask, because they didn't want to learn
 - Like the disciples, sometimes we are **willfully ignorant**
- We joke: "Don't ask for patience because God might bring trouble into your life."
 - Of course this is sad humor
 - This is "looking back" to our maps, not God's
- We should learn to say:
 - **"God, I want to be more like you, whatever it takes!"**
 - Anything less is sinful and insulting to God!
 - **Make me humble! Grow my faith! Grow my patience! Grow my love!**

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Application

Follow Jesus humbly and **boldly**

- Even when it means being like a servant:
 - invisible, without authority and without honor
- Even when it means being like an outcast or exile:
 - without a place to lay my head or a place for rest
- Even when it means leaving my family or culture:
 - pursuing the kingdom of God above all else
- “Whoever wants to be my disciple **must** deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” *Luke 9:23*

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Application

Follow Jesus humbly and **boldly**

- Since Jesus is God, and He is entirely praiseworthy and good, and He is the source of every good thing, **half-hearted following** our perfect teacher and Savior...
 - makes no sense
 - is utterly foolish
 - is shameful for us
 - dishonors His name
 - leads to our loss and to loss for people in our lives
- **Blending His map with our maps leads to destruction**
 - Simon the sorcerer: “You are captive to sin!” *Acts 8:9–24*

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The Big Idea

**Following Jesus requires
ongoing deep transformation
and full devotion**

When God and I don't agree...

- **seek His forgiveness and transformation, which He freely gives**
- **humbly and boldly choose to follow His ways alone**
 - **the God who sacrificed His Son to give us life!**
- **and don't look back, blending our old maps with His map**
 - **His ways are ALWAYS FAR BETTER than our ways!**