

# Don't Look Back!

Luke 9:37-62

When God and I don't agree...

## 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.**"

## Luke 6:37-62

Story	Disciples	Jesus
1: 37-43a	Powerless. Unbelieving & perverse	Great power
2: 43b-45	Don't understand & are too afraid to ask (willful ignorance)	Going to be handed over to suffer and die
3: 46-48	Which one of us is the greatest?	The least among you is the greatest!
4: 49-50	Stop 'outsiders' who do miracles in Jesus' name	Don't stop anyone doing ministry in Jesus' name!
5: 51-56:	Call for God's wrath against people who rejected Jesus	Rebukes the disciples! Then just walks away!
6: 57-62	Self-praising, hesitations, looking back	Don't turn back from following Jesus!

## The Big Idea

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

### Ongoing deep transformation

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

### Full devotion

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

## 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



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!

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!

### 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

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

### 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!

### Reflection Questions

1. What are some biblical examples of people who tried to blend God's maps with their own maps? What was the outcome?
2. What are some modern examples of people (including ourselves) who have tried to blend God's maps with our own maps?
3. What are examples of how God has brought a transformation in your own head, heart, or hands?
4. What helps you engage in deep transformation of the maps in our heads, our hearts, and our hands?
5. Where does following Jesus' map require boldness for you today?