

Steve Greenberg's Handout, Sunday Morning, December 21, 2025

Week 22: Luke 9:18-42 True Discipleship? Transfiguration?

Luke 9:18-20 Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ (Matt. 16:13-20; Mark 8:27-30)

Luk 9:18 And it happened, as He(**Jesus**) was alone praying (**Jesus praying privately**) that His disciples joined Him, and He asked (**questioned**) them, saying, "**Who do the crowds say that I am? (Jesus knew their answer but wanted to challenge them by what does that mean?)**"

Help us to get alone with Jesus & pray in this busy life

Luk 9:19 So they answered (**Jesus**) and said, "John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again."

Parallel passage in Matthew:

Mat 16:13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "**Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?**"

Mat 16:14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Mat 16:15 He(**Jesus**) said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?**"

Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

We all need to know who Jesus is and why did He die on the cross? Is He a good man, a prophet, or God Incarnate?

Mat 14:1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus

Mat 14:2 and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him."

Luk 9:20 He(**Jesus**) said to them, "**But who do you (Gk plural) say that I am?**" Peter (**speaker of the group**) answered and said, "The Christ of God."(**Hebrew: Messiah and Greek: Christ both mean "the Anointed One"**)

Jesus is identity as the Christ (Messiah, Anointed One)

Peter's confession, seen in Matt. 16:16; Mark 8:29-30

Confessed by angels (Luke 2:11)

Told by Simeon (Luke 2:26)

By demons (Luke 4:41);

By Jesus himself (Luke 4:18)

Is now confessed by the Twelve

To everyone: Do you know who Jesus is?

Jhn 6:68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Jhn 6:69 "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Luke 9:21-22 Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection (Matt. 16:20–23; Mark 8:30–33)

Luk 9:21 And He(Jesus) strictly warned and commanded them (His disciples) to tell this to no one,

Jesus was in control and Gods timing is critical, Jesus didn't want His identity popularly known before the proper time. Jesus also did not want people to come for the wrong reasons, large mixed crowds can be hard to minister too, also to prevent political misunderstanding. Jesus did not come this time to set up His kingdom but to be a suffering servant (Mark 10:45); to do His Fathers will (Heb 10:7); I did not come to destroy the law but to fulfill the law (Mat 5:17); and destroy the works of the devil (1John 3:8); I have come that you (believers in me) may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

Luk 9:22 saying, "The Son of Man (is a title Jesus used for himself) "must" suffer many (terrible) things, and be rejected (as the Messiah to come) by the elders and chief priests and scribes (teachers of religious law, Sanhedrin, Jewish High Court), and be killed, and be raised the third day (raised to life, resurrected)."

Must suffer many things

Jesus clearly teaches His disciples that his role as God's Anointed One (Christ, Messiah) involves suffering, death and resurrection.

Elders and chief priests and scribes

The chief priests are not the high priests but members of priestly families. They were acting as a group opposed to Jesus.

Jhn 19:7 The Jews answered him (Pilate), "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

- c. **Must suffer many things**: An important word here is **must**. This wasn't just a plan or an idea or a prediction; this was the fulfillment of what was planned before the world began for our salvation ([1 Peter 1:20](#) and [Revelation 13:8](#)).
- d. **And be raised the third day**: The resurrection was as much a **must** as any other aspect of His suffering; Jesus *had* to rise from the dead.

3. ([Luke 9:23](#)) Jesus calls everyone wanting to follow Him to do what He will do.

Then He said to **them** all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

- a. **Then He said to them all**: It was bad enough for the disciples to hear that Jesus would suffer, be rejected, and die on a cross. Now He told them that *they* must do the same; or at least have the same intention.

Quote from David Guzik on BLB website

Luke 9:23-26 Take Up the Cross and Follow Him (Matt. 16:24-27; Mark 8:34-38)

Luk 9:23 Then He(Jesus) said to them all (disciples & crowds), "If anyone desires to come after Me (be My disciple), let him deny himself (renouncing personal control of your life, setting aside your interests), and take up his cross daily (having faith, believing & trusting in Me every day, be conformed to My example of living according to the Word of God), and follow Me (following my example, obeying my scriptures, believing trusting in me by faith as the Holy Spirit and I will give you enablement).

The teachings on discipleship are addressed to everyone who desires to follow Him not just to the twelve disciples (Mark 8:34 Jesus spoke when he had called the people with His disciples).

The requirements of a true disciple, a born again believer is to deny yourself (renouncing personal control of one's life); Take up his cross (making a commitment to follow and obey the Lord, which will lead to rejection and persecution from the world (Jn 16:33), the Flesh (Gal 2:20; Romans 8:1-4), and the Devil (Heb 2:14; 1Jn 3:8).

1Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world...

Jam 4:4 Friendship with the world makes you an enemy with God

Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, don't be unequally yoked

The flesh: Our fallen human nature; sinful desires that remain even after salvation. Internal desires not according to Gods word, Self-centeredness & self glorification, disobedience & resistance to God's will.

Denying yourself means to live as an others-centered person. Jesus carried a cross, so His followers carry one. He walked to His self-death (**not my will but yours father**), so must those who would follow Him. Death to self means life, a powerful spirit led life, I like to call it resurrection life with God.

As believers we are in a war against the self-life? The world teaches Self, others God or God teaches; God, others and death to self

Denying yourself is not self-denial, many Christians think by getting on this strict diet, taking vitamins or getting on this series workout plan that they are denying themselves but actually they are exalting self (**glorifying self**) and turning away from God and strengthening the self life (**the very nature God is asking you to crucify**), have you ever noticed how legalistic, how their commitment will violate Gods Love and putting God first and then others and ultimately they put themselves first & trust in themselves (**living a life pleasing to self (selfishness)**), will blind a person to Gods truth and obeying His Word, they will blame others and have an excuse for everything, for example: it goes along with live your best life now! Jesus did not come to make a bad people good, Jesus came to make a dead person a live, dead to the old man, death to self-exaltation (death to self-glorification) and now alive to God with our the new Identity in Christ). Glorifying self is an offence to God it is actually building up pride and promoting the self-life over surrendering your life so you can have real spiritual life. We can practice all kinds of self-denial which has nothing to do with dying to self, denying yourself is laying aside your own interests and yielding to God first & others before yourself. God may have you be a gymnast, boxer, great athletic or bodybuilder but it will always be, as a witness to Him through a surrender life, giving glory to God every step of the way, according to the Holy Spirits power and not our own tenacity, or selfish natural human disciplines.

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified (**surrendered all, to be**) with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

2Cor 5:15 and He(**Jesus**) died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves (**focused on self**), but for Him(**Jesus**) who died for them and rose again.

Luk 9:24 "**For whoever desires to save his life (live or hang on to his old life self-focused life) will (eventually) lose it (through death), but whoever loses his life for My sake, will save it (the consequences of sin and separation from God).**

Godly principle, death to self brings life to those who believe

Jhn 12:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

Jhn 12:25 "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Have you noticed the most spirit filled people, full of joy, love to serve others, peace when trials come, are not afraid but walk by faith, trust in God, these are the people who daily crucify the flesh and reckon the old man dead (**selfless, dead to self-centerless**), but instead are put God first and are other-centered people (**true servants**).

Jesus' teaching here involves a paradox: The person who lives a self-centered life (**trying to save his life, his fallen nature**) will not find eternal life with God (**and will forfeit, lose eternal life**), but the person who gives up his self-centered life (**surrenders & crucifies his self-life**) for the sake of Christ and the gospel will find everlasting life (resurrection & abundant spiritual life) with God

Luk 9:25 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"

The devil is still offering this today

Luk 4:5 Then the devil, taking Him(**Jesus**) up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

Luk 4:6 And the devil said to Him(**Jesus**), "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it, to whomever I wish.

Luk 4:7 "Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

Today the devil is offering special benefits to believers if they will just follow his counsel which is opposite Gods counsel. Your actions, your witness, your life style and how you spend your time will validate your testimony and who you are really serving, the devil or Jesus, Self or others, remember actions speak louder than words.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world (**systems and life styles opposed to God, like unbelievers, bad company can corrupt believers, it is a real danger**), but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

What does it benefit a person if he gains wealth, fame, success; #1 point leader in 250 MC class, arm wrestling champion at school, bought a house, any pursuit that put itself above Christ is bad. All these pursuits will never satisfy or give you peace, rest, now, and if you accepted the Lord praise God, but you will bear no fruit, no heavenly rewards.

Luk 9:26 "For whoever is ashamed (here and now) of Me (My gospel or good news of the Kingdom of God) and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He(Jesus) comes in His own glory (second coming), and in His Father's (glory), and of the holy angels.

This refers to a denial of Jesus as Lord, refusing to openly follow Him, or compromising one's faith to avoid persecution and what others might think, walking in sin and hiding it.

Luke 9:27-36 Jesus Transfigured on the Mount (Matt 16:28–17:9; Mark 9:2–10; 2Pet 1:16–18)

Luk 9:27 "But I tell you truly (the truth), there are some standing here (Peter, John, and James among them the disciples & crowds, Mark 8:34), who shall not taste death (experience death) till they see the kingdom of God."

This is a reference to Peter, John, and James who will witness the transfiguration some days from now.

Correlation passage

Act 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,

Act 7:56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

Luk 9:28 Now it came to pass, about eight days, after these sayings, that He(Jesus) took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray (most likely Mount Hermon).

Jesus was previously in the Caesarea Philippi region (Luke 9:18). Mount Hermon was close by, Hermon is high, secluded, and fits the setting. In contrast others suggest Mount Tabor. Early church tradition favored Tabor. Tabor later becomes a site associated with the Transfiguration.

Luk 9:29 He prayed (Jesus was praying), the appearance of His face was altered (changed, actually transformed), and His robe (clothing) became white (dazzling white) and glistening (Lit flashing like brilliance of lightning).

Jesus was transformed right before the eyes. He changed in His appearance in what has become known as the transfiguration.

Luk 9:30 And behold, two men talked with Him(Jesus), who were Moses and Elijah,

Both Moses and Elijah had unusual ends (Jude 9 and 2 Kings 2:11). Moses represents those who die and go to glory, and Elijah represents those who are caught up to heaven without death.

Moses represent the Law and the Elijah the Prophets.

Luk 9:31 who appeared in glory (glorious splendor) and spoke of His decease (departure, exodus speaking of His death & resurrection) which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

2Pet 1:13 (Peter wrote) Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

2Pet 1:14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

2Pet 1:15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

2Pet 1:16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

2Pet 1:17 For He(Jesus) received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

2Pet 1:18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

2Pet 1:19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

2Pet 1:20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

2Pet 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Luk 9:32 But Peter and those with him(**John & James**) were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory (**His majesty**) and the two men who stood with Him.

Luk 9:33 Then it happened, as they were parting from Him (**that is Moses and Elijah**), that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not knowing (**not realizing, & mistakenly saying those things**) what he said. (**Tabernacles or tents, cf. Lev 23:34-43; Deut 16:13-15; Zech 14:16-19**).

When you get overwhelmed and you don't know what to say, say nothing and pray.

Luk 9:34 While he(**Peter**) was saying this, a cloud came (**God is present, shekinah glory**) and overshadowed them; and they (**Peter, John, and James**) were fearful (**greatly afraid, terror gripped them**) as they entered the cloud. (**Lit occurred**).

Correlation passage:

Exo 13:21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

Overshadowed:

Luk 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Luk 9:35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son (**My Chosen One**). Hear Him (**listen and obey and Him**)!" (**God the Father is speaking audibly to His Son**) (**Matt 17:5; Mark 1:11; 9:7; Luke 3:22; 9:35; John 12:28**)

The voice from heaven confirms the eternal relationship that the Son and Father share. It clearly identifies Jesus as the messianic Son of God (Ps. 2:7).

Deu 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

Jhn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Luk 9:36 When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they (**Peter, John, and James**) kept quiet (**keep silent**), and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen (**concerning the divine manifestation**). (**Lit occurred**).

Parallel passage in Matthew:

Mat 17:9 Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

Mar 9:10 So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.

Luke 9:37-42 A Boy Is Healed (Matt. 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29)

Luk 9:37 Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude (**large crowd**) met Him(**Jesus**).

Luk 9:38 Suddenly a man from the multitude (**crowd**) cried out, saying, "Teacher, I implore You (**I beg you**), look on my son, for he is my only child.

Luk 9:39 "And behold, a spirit (**evil spirit**) seizes him (**my son**), and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him, so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him (**it seldom leaves him but when he does he harms and try's to destroy him before he leaves**).

Matthew tells us seizures are distinguished from demon possession and can look similar.

Mat 4:24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He(Jesus) healed them (all).

Luk 9:40 "So I implored (**begged**) Your disciples (**nine disciples**) to cast it out, but they could not."

Previously in Luk 9:1 Then He(Jesus) called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. What happened why could not these nine disciples cast out the demon.

Luk 9:41 Then Jesus answered and said, "**O faithless and perverse generation (unbelieving and corrupt people), how long shall I be with you and bear (put up) with you? Bring your son here.**"

Unbelief is an enemy of faith and spiritual life

Luk 9:42 And as he (**his son**) was still coming, the demon threw him down (**slammed him to the grown harshly**) and convulsed him (**shook him with convulsions, violently**). Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit (**evil spirit**), healed the child, and gave him back to his father. (**Or tore him**).

End

Extra Scriptures:

Extra Charts and Notes:

Simple Biblical Chart for Christian to Stay Away From

<u>Category</u>	<u>Warning</u>	<u>Key Verse</u>
Die Self: Exalting Self	Self life enslaves-practices sin, die to self	Luke 9:23
Sexual Immorality	Stay pure; no sex outside marriage	1Cor 6:18
Lust / Pornography	Guard your eyes & thoughts	Matt 5:28
Drunkenness	Is sinful, reduces reason, stay out of bars,	Eph 5:18
Sorcery, Drugs	Say no to mind altering drugs like pot ...	Deut 18:10–12
Idolatry	Don't put anything above God	1John 5:21
Love of Money	Don't chase riches or material things	1Tim 6:10
Greed	Be content, not grasping for world things	Heb 13:5
Unforgiveness	Forgive quickly	Matt 6:14–15
Bitterness	Don't let resentment grow	Heb 12:15
Gossip / Slander	Watch your words	Eph 4:29

Anger Outbursts	Control your temper	Prov 29:11
Pride	Not willing to repent when sinning	James 4:6
Lying / Deception	Speak truth, don't lie & be untrustworthy	Eph 4:25
Bad Company	Wrong friends will corrupt & deceive you,	1Cor 15:33
Laziness, wasting time	Be diligent, work hard, be faithful	Prov 6:9–11

Simple Chart to Keep You Close, Abiding in Jesus & His Word

<u>Positive Habit</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Key Verse</u>
Love God	Put God first & obey His Word,	Matt 22:37
Love Others	Treat others with kindness	John 13:34–35
God First, Self-Die	Crucify old nature vs walk in New nature	Luke 9:23
Pray Daily	Talk to God continually	1Thess 5:17
Read the Word	Feed your spirit & soul	Josh 1:8
Obey God	Do what Scripture says	James 1:22
Walk in Faith	Trust God, not fear	Heb 11:6
Be Humble	Think less of self, ask God for wisdom	Phil 2:3
Forgive Quickly	Release offenses have a forgiving heart	Eph 4:32
Give Generously	Have a generous heart, share with others	2Cor 9:7
Serve Others	Be helpful and kind	Mark 10:45
Be Thankful	Practice gratitude, be thankful	1Thess 5:18
Confess Sin	Willingness to repent, Keep a clean heart	1John 1:9
Stay Pure	Keep your mind and body clean	1Tim 5:22
Be Diligent	Work hard for the Lord	Col 3:23
Walk in the Spirit	Live by the Spirit's power	Gal 5:22–23