



## Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

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### Week 5: “I must preach!” (Luke 4:42-44)

<sup>40</sup> As the sun went down that evening, people throughout the village brought sick family members to Jesus. No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed every one. <sup>41</sup> Many were possessed by demons; and the demons came out at his command, (Luke 4:40–41 NLT-SE)

<sup>42</sup> Early the next morning Jesus went out to an isolated place. The crowds searched everywhere for him, and when they finally found him, they begged him not to leave them. <sup>43</sup> But he replied, “I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent.” <sup>44</sup> So he continued to travel around, preaching in synagogues throughout Judea. (Luke 4:42–44 NLT-SE)

The story above is found only in Luke and Mark’s gospels. Here is Mark’s version...

<sup>35</sup> Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray. <sup>36</sup> Later Simon and the others went out to find him. <sup>37</sup> When they found him, they said, “Everyone is looking for you.” <sup>38</sup> But Jesus replied, “We must go on to other towns as well, and I will preach to them, too. That is why I came.” <sup>39</sup> So he traveled throughout the region of Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and casting out demons. (Mark 1:35–39 NLT-SE)

### - What did the disciples see and hear?

- **They saw their leader and teacher in action...** Jesus who knew *who* he was and *what* he was for. Not everything had equal value to Jesus. Some things were just more important than others. Those who watched Jesus closely would have seen him consistently giving himself to these practices:
  - **Silence and Solitude.** The priority of Jesus’ solitude and silence is everywhere in the Gospels. It’s how he began his ministry. It’s how he made important decisions. It’s how he dealt with troubling emotions like grief. It’s how he dealt with the constant demands of his ministry and cared for his soul. It’s how he taught his disciples. It’s how he prepared for important ministry events. It’s how he prepared for his death on the cross. Jesus was no stranger to “**slipping away**” to be with the Father.
  - It seemed that the more success Jesus had in ministry, the more time he would spend “recovering” from the experience. He obviously found a place of rest and strength in the presence of the Father. His “prayer” likely was not requesting that the Father do something for him, but that his spiritual eyes would be opened to see the Father’s will.

- <sup>15</sup> Despite Jesus' instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. <sup>16</sup> But **Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.** (Luke 5:15–16 NLT-SE)
- As soon as Jesus heard the news [*that John the Baptist had been beheaded*], he left in a boat to a remote area ("solitary place," NIV) **to be alone.** (Matt 14:13 NLT-SE)
- Once **Jesus was in a certain place praying.** As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray (Luke 11:1 NLT-SE)
- **Prayer.** He didn't come to the Father for help, Jesus came for relationship; a relationship that had existed from the beginning of time! He never wondered what the Father wanted. His heart was tuned in through his prayer life.
  - <sup>16</sup> The Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. <sup>17</sup> But Jesus replied, "**My Father is always working, and so am I...**" <sup>19</sup> I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. **Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.** <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. In fact, the Father will show him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished." (John 5:16, 17, 19–20 NLT-SE)
  - <sup>15</sup> **I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.** <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to this world any more than I do. <sup>17</sup> **Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word,** which is truth. <sup>18</sup> Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth. (John 17:15–19 NLT-SE)
- **Focused Ministry.** Jesus knew this assignment to restore the kingdom was going to cost him everything. Even at a young age, He knew he had an assignment that he was to fulfill. It was that important. It would require that he be led by the Father's will and strengthened by the power of the Spirit.
  - We must quickly carry out **the tasks assigned us** by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. (John 9:4 NLT-SE)
  - "Don't you know there are other places I must go so I can offer to them the hope of God's kingdom-realm? **This is what I have been sent to do.**" (Luke 4:43 PASSION)
- **They saw people hungry for more...** They heard the scriptures preached with great authority (Luke . They saw people set free from the things that bound them (sin, demons, sickness). They tasted the fruit of the restoration of God's kingdom and they wanted more! This wouldn't be the last time Peter felt this hunger to seize the moment. An experience with Jesus captured his heart again in Matthew 17.
  - <sup>1</sup> Six days later Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. <sup>2</sup> As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus.
 

<sup>4</sup> Peter exclaimed, "**Lord, it's wonderful for us to be here! If you want, I'll make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.**"

<sup>5</sup> But even as he spoke, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him." <sup>6</sup> The disciples were terrified and fell face down on the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Then Jesus came over and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” <sup>8</sup> And when they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus. (Matt 17:1–8 NLT-SE)

- **They saw the urgency of Jesus’ mission...** The urgency is definitely for salvation to come to those who still need their relationship with God restored. This lifetime is the only opportunity people have to complete their adoption into the family of God.
  - So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. **You are members of God’s family.** (Eph 2:19 NLT-SE)
  - <sup>14</sup> **All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.** <sup>15</sup> So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” <sup>16</sup> For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that **we are God’s children.** <sup>17</sup> And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. (Rom 8:14–17 NLT-SE)
  - Live wisely among those who are not believers, and **make the most of every opportunity.** (Col 4:5 NLT-SE)
    - What we do now has direct implications on **the rewards we will receive and the assignments we will complete** during the 1,000 year reign of Christ after his return. Some of the assignments we’ve been given now will actually be fulfilled in the Millennium. We have these 70 or so years now to prepare us for what we will actually have 1,000 years to complete!
      - “‘Well done!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a good servant. **You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you,** so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.’ (Luke 19:17 NLT-SE)
- **Activation:** What would they have learned?
  - **Getting away with God is essential to spiritual health...** Making time to get away, alone with Jesus, is a key discipline for those who truly want to grow spiritually.
  - **The tension between Intimacy/Assignment is not only real, but essential...** Once you taste the delights of walking intimately with Jesus, there is a real pull to stay there, undistracted, and dwell in his presence. Just like Jesus, we have a message to preach. There is a key to this seen in Matthew 22...
    - <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” (Matt 22:36–40 NLT-SE)
- **Prayer: “I want the hunger to go in, as well as the hunger to go out!”**