

Fact Sheet for Luke 9:57-62

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Jesus has just completed the discussion He had with His disciples in Matthew 18. That discussion was in Capernaum. Now He continued His last journey from Galilee to Jerusalem.

There are no parallels in John until Jesus reaches Bethany near Jerusalem. Matthew and Mark leave off here and don't pick up again until Jesus is almost at Jericho. *(There are however fifteen verses from earlier in Matthew that are paralleled with Luke.)* Luke essentially continues alone for about eight chapters.

There are two transitions between Matthew 18 and Luke 9:57ff.

1st Transition

Matthew and Mark leave off the journey with these verses:

Matthew 19:1-2

¹ Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ² And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

Mark 10:1

¹ And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them.

“The region of Judea beyond the Jordan” is on the east side of the Jordan River between Galilee and the Dead Sea. This is the area known as Perea, and these verses are often said to indicate “The Perea Ministry” of Jesus. The placement of these verses in my harmony show that Jesus traveled down the Jordan River valley, on the east side of the Jordan, during His last journey to Jerusalem. In standard harmonies these verses sort of awkwardly hang out there by themselves and speak of a “Perea Ministry” that not much is known about.

2nd Transition

Luke 9:51-53

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the

Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³ But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem.

Luke 9:54-56

⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw it (*that the Samaritans did not receive Him*), they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ And they went on to another village.

I like the KJV translation of Luke 9:51:

^{KJV} **Luke 9:51** And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

This verse speaks of His ascension in to heaven and His resolute journey to Jerusalem.

Standard harmonies interweave John 7-11 with Luke after this verse and force this resolute journey to Jerusalem to be interrupted by three trips to Jerusalem and its vicinity (Sukkot (October), Hanukkah (December), and the raising of Lazarus)! The placements I have made in my harmony indicate these events have already happened by the time Jesus sets His face to go to Jerusalem. It is now early spring, less than one month prior to Passover (cf. my sermon on Matthew 17:24-27).

Now begins today's text, with four earlier verses from Matthew in parallel.

Luke 9:57

⁵⁷ **As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."**

^{ESV} **Matthew 8:19** And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

Luke 9:58

⁵⁸ **And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."**

^{ESV} **Matthew 8:20** And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Luke 9:59

⁵⁹ **To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."**

^{ESV} **Matthew 8:21** Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

Luke 9:60

60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

^{ESV} **Matthew 8:22** And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

Luke 9:61

61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home."

Luke 9:62

62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Look at other passages on discipleship within a week or two on either side of Luke 9:57-62

Before (between 1st announcement and transfiguration):

^{ESV} **Luke 9:23** And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

^{ESV} **Luke 9:24** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

After (between Samaria and Galilee):

^{ESV} **Luke 14:25-26** Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.