**Luke 9-10 – The meaning of discipleship**

*9:1-6 & 10:1-12 – Jesus sends his followers out to heal and proclaim the Kingdom of God.*

* We are called to complete His mission.
* We are called to heal and proclaim His kingdom in complete dependence upon Him

*Who is Jesus?*

* Herod is confused – thinks maybe he is John the Baptist risen from the dead
* The people think he might be John the Baptist or maybe a prophet, also risen from the dead
* He is the one who provides, over and above any reasonable expectation or need (Feeding of the 5,000)
* He is the Messiah of God (the coming King who will establish an eternal kingdom)
* He is the one who is rejected by the rulers of this world and is to be killed, but will rise again.
* He is the one whose glory was revealed on the mountain with Elijah and Moses.
* He is the Son of God, the chosen one, to whom we must listen.
  + Note the disciple’s failure to listen when Jesus predicted His death (9:45-48)
* He has power over demons and all kinds of evil.

*Following Jesus means abandoning self*

* Following Jesus means self-denial (9:23-27)
* Taking up one’s cross. The cross is an instrument of torture and death. The expression “we all have our cross to bear” has nothing to do with this. Taking up our cross is not having annoyances, problems or inconveniences in life. It is laying our life down for His sake.
* Following Jesus means abandoning any pretense to greatness, and acceptance of the least as the greatest. Greatness is achieved only by becoming the least, the servant of all.
* Following Jesus means putting Him above home and family (9:57-62)
* Following Jesus means adhering to the 2 great commandments:
  + “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.”
  + Love “your neighbor as yourself.” This means acting in love toward all; not just toward those who are part of our circle or social unit. (Parable of the good Samaritan)
  + The lesson of the Good Samaritan is “Go, and do likewise.” We must act.
  + But action follows and proceeds from listening to Jesus (like Mary). Acting without listening is pointless, even if the actions are good (10:38-42)

*Following Jesus is the greatest blessing*

* Following Jesus means inheriting His authority and power over Satan and evil (10:17-20)
* Following Jesus means obtaining the blessing that is reserved for little children and withheld from the wise, and even from the prophets and kings of Israel.

There is a refrain of listening to Jesus in Luke (9:35, 10:42). Our goal in reading Luke is to make us listen.