



Luke 9:7-17 ESV

*"Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. Herod said, "John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he sought to see him. On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." And they did so, and had them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces."*

Earlier we read where the disciples have been sent out to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal. They obviously went out and gave a report back to Jesus but we have no details. And interestingly enough, Jesus draws them from the crowds. But the crowds found out where Jesus was and they found him. How did Jesus receive them? (Do you notice that Jesus does exactly what He had sent His disciples out to do – 1. Speak about the Kingdom of God; and, 2. Heal.) Just like Jesus to not only ask us to do things but does them also Himself.

How does "Do as I say, not as I do, fit into your Christian life?"

They find themselves in a desolate place with seemingly little to no place to eat and rest.

The disciples may have been worried about their next meal.

Do you often get concerned about your needs over the needs of others?

Quick Overview of the Passage

- Herod is perplexed (9:7-9) Herod thought he had put a stop to this religious stuff going on. Now healings and crazy stuff is happening. Herod thought he had taken care of that by killing John.
- Apostles report (9:10) They give an update on how their "Shake the Dust Off Tour" went from earlier in the chapter. Their two main tasks were Proclaiming the kingdom of God and healings.
- Jesus continues His mission (9:11) Proclaiming and healing. Jesus welcomes those in need. How often do you see yourself as "being in need" or do you mostly see yourself as the "one bringing help"?
- Disciples lack (9:12-13) The disciples let Jesus know that the people are without food and shelter. The day is wearing on. They think that Jesus is lacking a plan so they suggest a plan to Him. They tell Jesus what He needs to do. Ever try to convince God that you have a better plan?

- Jesus provides (9:14-17) His plan is so different but complete. How often do you “plan your way over trusting God?” Is there a general occurrence that leads you to “take things into your own hands?” How might you remind yourself that Jesus always provides?

The disciples who had just returned from the tour tell Jesus to tell the people to go fend for themselves. Interestingly enough, Jesus sent them out earlier telling them not to worry where their meal and housing was to be just go, proclaim the Kingdom of God and heal.

Jesus tells them to give them something to eat. They only have 5 loaves and 2 fish unless they go buy food for them.

When we have little and a great need, we usually hold a little tighter. What might you be holding on to tightly that reveals a lack of faith on your part?

What resources do you lack? (Time, Patience, Money, Compassion, Energy, Faith, Knowledge, Courage)

What is one resource you wish you had more of?

Let's take a look at King Solomon - God gave his wisdom and his life ends in ruin. His heart could not handle it.

What about your heart? If you get more of whatever resource you want, you still have the problem of your heart. Original sin came from eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

The greatest resource we lack is - faith.

Help my unbelief - I need faith. Faith does not come through working harder, knowing more, having more connections, but through the struggles and suffering of life where we trust Him.

God owns it all. Trust the owner. Many times, we just want the stuff so that we don't have to be under the authority of the owner.

The greatest abundance that God possesses for the faithless is grace. God even provides leftovers. 12 baskets of leftovers.

What might you need to release?

What is keeping you from trusting Him in the small and the big things in your life right now?

Allow time for the group to share any prayer concerns.

Encourage your group to pray for one another this week.