

The Gospel of Luke

The First Missionary Journey of the Apostles

Luke 9:1-11

1. **Men for Their Ministry** (v.1)

Jesus had chosen twelve men from among His disciples to be His special messengers and witnesses (cf. Acts 1:21-22). They were ordinary men without previously specialized and sanctioned religious training (cf. Acts 4:13), and some of them had, until recently, lived irreligiously (cf. Luke 5:27-28).

2. **Focuses of Their Ministry** (vs.1-2)

It is amazing that Jesus gave power to the apostles so that they could do the very works that He had been doing (cf. Matt 10:7-8). The primary focus of Jesus' ministry and their mission was preaching the gospel (Luke 4:43). All of the miracles were to compassionately demonstrate God's power and authentication of this message.

3. **Mechanics of Their Ministry** (vs.3-4)

The apostles were to depart with no extra provisions for themselves except for the extraordinary provision of power that Jesus had given to them (cf. Matt 10:9-10; Mark 6:8-9). They were to be utterly dependant upon those to whom they ministered for every normal physical need.

4. **Opponents of Their Ministry** (v.5)

They had experienced opposition with Jesus (cf. Luke 6:1-11), but now He was preparing them to experience it when He was not present. Even the undeniable power of God on display will not eliminate opposition to the gospel.

5. **Faithfulness in Their Ministry** (v.6)

While the apostles failed in many areas and were repeatedly guilty of not fully understanding or believing what Jesus was teaching them, Luke here records their earnest obedience to the command of Jesus (cf. Acts 3:6; 14:15).

6. **Responses to Their Ministry** (vs.7-11)

A. **Herod's Response** (vs.7-9)

Herod Antipas heard of Jesus' ministry and was paranoid that John the Baptist might be back. His desire to see Jesus was either to kill Him (Luke 13:31) or to be entertained by Him (Luke 23:8-12).

B. **The People's Response** (vs.10-11)

They were very happy with the tangible blessings of Christ's ministry. Their enormous response would set the stage for one of Jesus' greatest miracles and His targeted rebuke to them (cf. vs.12ff; John 6:26ff).