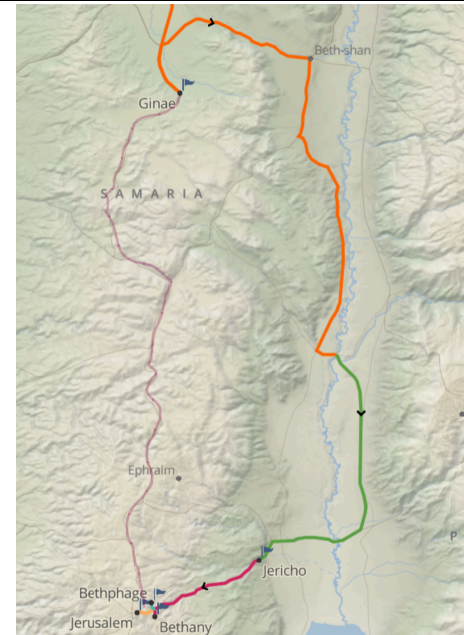


**“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” Mark 9:62**

It is evident from our text-verse that in Jesus’ time the plow usually had but one handle. One hand guided the plow, while the other held the long *goad*—a long staff, pointed on the end—by which the oxen were spurred on to their work. Since the plow was fairly lightweight, it was necessary for the plowman to lean forward with all his weight on the handle to keep the *share*—the cutting blade—in the ground.

Many commentators suggest that by looking back, the laborer would be unable to make straight furrows. The usual method was for the plowman to pick an object at the far end of the field and keep the plow going directly toward it. If he turned to look behind him to see how he was doing, he would lose sight of his objective and go off from his straight line. Jesus’ spiritual lesson is that if we look back at our old life with longing, as the Israelites in the wilderness kept looking back at Egypt, then we aren’t fit for service in His kingdom.

(Ref: *The New Manners and Customs of the Bible*)



In Luke 9:53, the offended Samaritans refuse Jesus' request for hospitality, forcing Him and the disciples to take the much longer and more difficult route to Jerusalem through Jericho.

*Memory Verse #39:* “Do not rejoice in this...but rejoice that your \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_”  
 (Luke 10:20).

*In His Dust:* Talmidim become \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. “We proclaim Him, \_\_\_\_\_ every person and \_\_\_\_\_ every person with all \_\_\_\_\_, so that we may present every person mature in Christ. (Colossians 1:28).

## **Lesson notes & questions:**

### **Lesson Reflections (review before Apply nights):**

- What is at least one new thing I learned about loving God or my neighbor?
- Which topics would I like to know more about or need clarification?
- How does the Holy Spirit want me to apply the lesson’s Scripture to my discipleship?

*“Go make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20)*

## **APPLY!**

- Share any "Lesson Reflections" with the group. Recite this lesson's Memory and In His Dust verses; discuss what they mean to you.
- **Four Attitude Adjustments for Reaching Others**
  - Luke 9:46-48 - From Pride To Humility (WW #37)
  - Luke 9:49-50 - From Tribalism ("us vs them") to Cooperation (WW #37)
  - **Luke 9:51-56 - From Vengeance to Mercy**
    - How can we, individually and as a church, demonstrate more mercy to those who will not receive the good news?
    - In response to the sin and depravity around us, in what ways is saying, "Jesus just needs to come back," (implying God needs to come back right now and judge the wicked) not the best attitude?
  - **Luke 9:57-62 - From Security to Sacrifice**
    - Take an honest inventory of the things in your life you would be unwilling to part with if it meant saving one other person. Pray about surrendering these "off limits" areas to God. Compare Moses in Ex. 32:32 and Paul in Romans 9:3.
    - What can you do tomorrow to trust God more than you did today?
  - Which of the four attitude adjustments do you think you need most? Why?
- **Five Actions for Reaching Others**
  - **Luke 10:1-2 - Pray Earnestly** - Comment on the significance of this statement: "The problem is not that there is no harvest, but there are too few Christians doing the work of telling people about Jesus." What is the solution?
  - **Luke 10:3-4 - Go Meekly** - also read **Luke 22:35**. What do these two passages say about God's provision and protection? Don't miss the contrast of Jesus' words here to the reluctance of the three disciples in Luke 9:57-62.
  - **Luke 10:5-8 - Seek Peace** - Keeping in mind the discussion on mercy above, what are some biblical ways to respond to others who do not return our peace in today's society?
  - **Luke 10:9-16 - Preach Boldly** - Why is it so difficult to tell the truth that God is angry about sin? How can we better "speak the truth in love" (Eph 4:15)?
  - **Luke 10:17-20 - Rejoice Greatly** - In a minute or less, what is your testimony?
  - Which of these five actions are strengths for you? Which are opportunities?
- **What do you want to remember and apply from this lesson?**
- **Spend the last five minutes in prayer pairs.**
  - Seek His will for our church, our community, and our society.
  - Praise for answered prayers, growth, and how God is working in your life.