The Training of the Twelve

Luke 9:1-22

MUSIC: ARIANNA BAIRD, DAN GILLETTE

Jesus prepares his leaders for his looming rejection by solidifying their convictions about him.

1. Their Launch into the Fray: A Dose of Reality (vv. 1-6)

**MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG** 

a. The apostles are empowered and sent by Jesus.

**Luke 9:1** And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, **2** and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

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b. The apostles must trust in God's provision with contentment.

**Luke 9:3** And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. **4** And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart.

c. The apostles must understand that they will face rejection.

**Luke 9:5** And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." **6** And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

2. Their Opposition from the Authorities: An Attitude of Curiosity (vv. 7-9)

**Luke 9:7** 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, **8** by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. **9** Herod said, "John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he sought to see him.

3. Their Failure in the Mission: A Heart of Forgetfulness (vv. 10-17)

Luke 9:10 On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. 11 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. 12 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." 13 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."

14 For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." 15 And they did so, and had them all sit down. 16 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. 17 And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

- 4. Their Conviction about Jesus: A Reminder of His Identity (vv. 18-20)
  - a. Jesus' identity causes confusion for many.

**Luke 9:18** Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" **19** And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen."

b. His apostles understand his identity: Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah.

**Luke 9:20** Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

5. Their Certainty of Jesus' Mission: A Mandate of His Saviorhood (vv. 21-22)

**Luke 9:21** And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, **22** saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

## **Reflection/Discussion**

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- 1. The apostles had a unique role in the ministry of Jesus' kingdom. In what ways were their responsibilities different from what we have been charged with today? In what ways are they the same?
- 2. As long as we are on this earth we will be in a state of training. What patterns have you developed in your life to ensure continued growth in your trust and practice of kingdom life? How do you respond to moments of personal failure? How does Jesus respond?

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