

A CASE STUDY OF JESUS AS LEADER

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The narrative started with Jesus in (Luke 9:10 NIV) giving his twelve disciples power and authority to drive away demons and cure diseases. Jesus has powers over everything in heaven and earth. That was why he was so confident and bold to command his disciples. He charged them to proclaim not just the kingdom of God but also to heal the sick; he is the most celebrated physician of all times. Jesus wants his disciples to depend solely on God's ability to provide for them and not have any cares in the world (Cast your burdens on me he encouraged them)(Luke 9:3-5)

To reintegrate that, he instructed them thus," Take nothing for the journey, no staff, no bags, no bread, no money, no extra shirt whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. If people do not welcome you, leave their Town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them. From this, it is clear Jesus wants his disciples to have absolute, one hundred percent trust and reliance in God and to show that his disciples have respect for his instructions they also set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and leading people everywhere. None of them questioned his authority or refused to carry out his instructions. (Luke 9:6)

The narrative continued with Herod thinking he has done his worst by killing John the Baptist, therefore, silencing the gospel but he soon started hearing the news of all that was going on, and he was perplexed because some told him, the John that he killed has been raised from the

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dead while others were saying Jesus was Elijah and yet others said he is one of the prophets of old that has reincarnated, but Herod in his confusion said to himself" I beheaded John who then is this I hear such things about ?" and he tried to see him(Luke 9:7)

The disciples are now back from where they went to evangelize, and Jesus Knowing the importance of Separation withdrew with his disciples to be by themselves to a town called Bethsaida. Everywhere Jesus and his disciples went, they attracted a large crowd. This situation might probably be because of the miracles God is using them to perform. The more they do this, the more the report spread within and abroad. The crowd learned about Jesus and disciples were in Town and followed them and Jesus also as an accommodating and loving leader welcomed them and also used the opportunity to talk to them about the kingdom of God and in the same instance he healed those who needed healing(Luke 9:10-11)

The crowd stayed so long with Jesus and his disciples that it was getting late. They were hungry, Jesus being a compassionate leader and not wanting to send them away hungry and empty-handed, asked his disciples what was available to feed the crowd with. When Jesus said, his disciples should feed them; they were confused because they could not see any real food that could feed and satisfy five thousand people. They told him all they had was "only" despising what they have by calling it only five loaves of bread and two fishes; they said unless they go and get food for them, but they were reluctant because they did not see how that could be possible.

This then shows that the disciples of Jesus did not fully know who their master and leader is. They never thought he could perform that miracle that could feed five thousand people, or they knew and just underestimated his powers and authority to do the miraculous. He told his

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disciples confidently and assurance after hearing the quantities of what is available to command the crowd to sit down in groups of fifty each (Luke 9:12-14)

One clear thing is that even though his disciples can have some doubts because of their unbelieve, they still obeyed his instructions and commandment. Moreover, he took the five loaves and the two fishes and, looking up to heaven, gave thanks and broke them. He gave to his disciples to distribute to the people. The people ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve baskets full of leftover broken pieces. This is amazing and a miracle. Why did Jesus had to look to heaven?. He has to show his disciples that his authority comes from his father in heaven. He also showed that no matter how difficult the situation may be, thanksgiving unlocks both spiritual and physical blessings.

In (Luke 9:21), he predicted his death to his disciples of how he will die and rise within three days. He further told them about self-denial, Self-denial is one of the qualities of a leader and also pass on to the followers, Jesus said" Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me" For whoever wants to save their lives will lose it but whoever loses their lives for me will save it" He said what good is it for someone to gain the whole world and yet lose or forfeit themselves" Whoever is ashamed of me and my word, the Son of man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory, and the in the glory of the father and the Holy Angels, honestly I tell you some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God"(Luke 9:24-27)what Jesus is saying, in essence, is that we should seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all other things will be added.

Jesus took Peter, John, and James, his close allies up out on a mountain to pray, the prayer was so intense that the appearance of his face changed. His clothes became as bright as a

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flash of lightning, Moses and Elijah appeared in their glorious splendor talking until Jesus, they further confirmed his departure, which was to be fulfilled. Peter and James and John were sleeping but became fully awake and saw Jesus's glory and the two men standing with him, as the two men were living Peter being a very confident and outspoken person said to Jesus "master, it is good for us to be here. Let us pull up three shelters. One for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah, but while he was talking, a cloud appeared and covered them. They were afraid as they entered the cloud, and a voice came from the cloud, the voice of God confirming Jesus's lordship and kingship on earth. "This is my Son, whom I have chosen, listen to him." When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone, but the disciples kept this revelation about Jesus Christ to themselves (Luke 9:29-34)

Furthermore, (Luke 9 :37-49) A man the next day when they came down from the mountain as usual a large crowd was gathered but a man cried out from that crowd saying teacher that his only Son had convulsion that would not allow him to have peace (troubles him). He said he had reported the case to Jesus's disciples, who could not heal him Jesus on hearing his report was not happy with his disciples because he felt they should be able to handle the simple case. He asked them how long they will continue to depend on him to do everything them because he wanted them to function like him or even do much more. Jesus however rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father, and they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

Jesus' disciples do not understand many things, and they seem to look at most situations from the natural standpoint even when Jesus is trying hard to explain things to them or let them see from the spiritual angle, for instance, while everyone was still marveling over the healing of the boy with an evil spirit of convulsion when Jesus was trying to know the mindset of two

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disciples about whom people think he is, it was only Peter who got the revelation(Luke 18:20).He said you are the Messiah the son of the living God and Jesus said flesh and blood has not revealed it to Peter but the Spirit of God, he said you are Peter the Rock upon you the Church of God will be built and this actual turned out to be true because after Jesus had ascended Peter became one of the greatest preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus told them to listen carefully to what he is about to tell them. He said, "the son of man is going to be delivered into the hands of men," but they did not understand what this meant, it was hidden from them they could not grasp it and were afraid to ask because of shame" Luke 9:44-45.In preparation for Jesus crucifixion and death, he sent messengers who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him, but he was not welcome because he was going to Jerusalem when James and John saw this they were so upset that they said to Jesus "if he wants them to call down from heaven to destroy them, but Jesus turned and rebuked them" Luke 10:51-55

(Luke 9:57-6) a man said he would follow Jesus anywhere he goes. However, Jesus told him, "foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the son of man has no place to lay his head," meaning ministry is not attractive; it is a place of servitude and not flamboyance. Another man came, and Jesus told him to follow me." However, that one was looking for excuses to go first to buy his dead father, and Jesus said he should leave the dead to bury their dead, but he should go and proclaim the kingdom of God. Another man said I would follow you, Lord, but first, let me go back and say goodbye to my family. Jesus told him no man who put his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God. The kingdom business is a serious one is not for people who give excuses.

Jesus again in the course of his early ministry appointed seventy-two others and sent them out by two ahead of him to every Town and place where he was about to go. He made them

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understand that the "harvest is plenty, but the workers are few. He said they should ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field, meaning there is so much to be done for God on earth. However, the people to do them are not readily available; As he instructed the twelve. He also told these ones the same but added that he is sending them out like a lamb amongst wolves. Sending them out amid the wicked people, but they are to maintain their Godly character. Luke 10:1-4. The same charge and instruction were given to this set of people as well.

At this time, Jesus was already upset with the attitude of people of Chorazin and Bethsaida, admonishing that if the miracles that were performed and they saw were done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have a change of heart (repentance) long ago with sackcloths and ashes. He said it would be better for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for them, Chorazin and Bethsaida, even Capernaum, was not spared by Jesus in his anger and admonishment.(Luke 16:13-15)

Jesus told the seventy-two that whoever accepts them accepts him, and whoever rejects them rejects him. They went and came back with useful reports that even the demons submit to their authority.

Furthermore he told them not to rejoice that spirits are bowing to them, but they should rejoice that their names are written in the book of life. He told them they would tremble upon scorpions and snakes and overcome the enemies powers, but nothing will harm them (10: 16-18)

A teacher of the law came to ask him what he can do to inherit eternal life, and Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your strength and will all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus to told him, he has responded well, but he still went further wanting to justify himself by asking who is neighbor is. Jesus then narrated the story of the Samaritan in

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(Luke 10:30-36) He said a man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho and was attacked by robbers; they death ruthlessly with him leaving him half-naked and to the point of death, a priest who traveled on the same road saw the man ignored him and went through another route, a Levite also did the same. However, as he traveled, a Samaritan came where he saw him and decided to render help; he took pity on him. However, the man on his donkey brought him to take care of him, the following day, he paid the owner of the inn two denarii and told them to look after him. When I return, I will pay the full amount he must have incurred. Jesus then asked the teacher of the law which of these three people was a neighbor, and he said the one who had mercy on him, Jesus told him to go and do the same.

In Jesus's ministry, Martha and Mary had a special place in his heart. They were the siblings of Lazarus, which Jesus raised from the dead(John11:1-44).

Jesus came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him to her home with her sister Mary. However, instead of Mary to assist Martha her sister in taking care of Jesus instead, she sat at the feet of Jesus, listening to what he said. However, Martha was concerned with the preparation that has to be made for Jesus. She complained about this to him. She said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself," tell her to help me. However, Jesus responded, "Martha Martha" You are worried and upset about many things. However, few things are needed, or indeed only one and Mary has chosen what is best, and it will not be taken away from her (Luke 10:38-41).

From John 17 after Jesus earthly ministry, it was now time for him to go to the cross as predicted in(Luke 9:21-27). After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

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"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all the people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

This is eternal life: they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. Moreover, now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. (John 17:1-5)

Jesus also prayed for his disciples at this time one could not imagine what was running through his mind like he said in (Matthew 26:39) almost tempted to tell God not to allow him go through crucifixion or was he looking forward to go through it with brevity and courage knowing he will rise again in three days in victory over death and the devil.

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me, and they have obeyed your word. Now they know everything you have given me comes from you.

I gave them the words you gave me, and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine.

"Moreover, glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me.

None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

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"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have a measure of joy. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them, I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.(John 17:6-19)

Jesus also Prayed for all Believers

"My prayer is not for them alone. I also pray for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me---- so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am and to see my glory, the glory that you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them. Moreover, I will continue to make you known so that the love you have for me may be in them and that I may be in them."(John 17:20-23)

This narrative is ending with the story of the eleven disciples who went away to Galilee, to a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. They recognized the lordship of Jesus Christ by worshipping him when they saw him. However, despite that, some still doubted his lordship and Jesus noticing their thoughts and to affirm his authority over them and the whole world " said

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"all power is given unto me in heaven and earth" (Mathew 28:18) He, therefore, commissioned them specifically in (Mathew28:19) to go. "Therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father the Son and the holy spirit" They are also commanded to obey all the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, whatever was commanded by him that I am with you always even unto the end of the world. Jesus Christ's leadership is and unfinished because he was the same today yesterday and always ((Hebrew 13:8). Jesus Christ as a leader spoke with authority and was very sure and confident of his mission here on earth and he expected his followers like Peter, James and John, and others to show the same type of confidence, assurance, and authority but some of them were not brave enough, but even at that he still gave them the reassurance that he will always be with them and never leave nor forsake them until the end of the age(Matthew 28:20;Hebrew 13:5-6;John 3:16-17;1 Peter 2:9;Romans 8:39).

Questions

Why was it important for Jesus to die?

Was Jesus earthly ministry successful, if yes why if no why?

Why was prayer so important in Jesus earthly ministry?

Why did he sent out his disciples to preach?

Why was the feeding of the five thousand so fundamental to his ministry?