“Jesus Steadfast Face”

Luke 9:51-62

Today, on this Sunday, it is Ascension Sunday. In my sermon collection of over 100 sermons in Luke, I noticed nothing on the Ascension of Jesus. Not that I have not shared on it before!

The very first verse is an interesting verse:

**Luke 9:51 (NIV)**
As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus **resolutely** set out for Jerusalem. Soon the main reason for His coming to this sinful planet.

The ascension of Jesus took place within fifty days after His resurrection. Luke writes beforehand as Jesus was on His way to die for our sins.

It did take a fair amount of time before Jesus en

Soon Jesus would go back to Heaven. He was “taken up to Heaven and is now at the right hand of the Father.

In Genesis 5:24 we read that Enoch who ascended into Heaven.

In 2 Kings 2:1-2 we read about Elijah who was taken to Heaven in a firey chariot and a whirlwind.

Neither were surrounded by clouds as Jesus was – the clouds represent the presence of God the Father.

Enoch and Elijah were sinners so they will have to die –

Romans 3:23

Hebrews 9:27

There will be those who will not have to die since they will be living when the rapture takes place.

This reminds me of the comedian who said when it come to his death, he does not want to be there. Me too – Come Lord Jesus

Jesus made three trips into Jerusalem.

1. When He was twelve –
2. When He raised Lazarus from death
3. And His final journey when He was crucified.

This final journey to Jerusalem more than likely took several months. Luke describes only the final journey.

1. He struggled in the Garden of Gethsemane
2. He was betrayed by Judas Iscariot
3. Jesus was arrested
4. Jesus was taken before the Jewish Priests
5. Jesus went before Pilate
6. Jesus went before Herod
7. Jesus was sent back to Pilate
8. Jesus was beaten and flogged.
9. He carried His own cross although helped by someone
10. Jesus was mocked by the soldiers. Except one maybe more
11. He assured the thief on the cross that he was saved.
12. Jesus willingly died
13. He rose from the grad
14. Jesus appeared to many
15. Jesus ascended to Heaven in a cloud.
16. Jesus is coming again
17. In this text - Jesus was rejected by those gathered there. They were Samaritans –

We often think of the Good Samaritan who helped the man out. These Samaritans were not like the Good Samaritan.

Luke 9:54 (KJV)

And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

**Now AS JESUS ASSCENSION Approaches Jesus leaves Galilee and faces the Samaritans and is rejected by them. They Refuse to Receive Him.**

**After Jesus death and resurrection within fifty days -** Jesus ascended up to heaven and was united with His Father. Jesus entered into glory and to receive all He had given up when He came to earth. The work of Christ in the flesh was completed and done.

He formally "*came to His own*," in Jerusalem and "would have gathered them as a hen does her chicks. Jesus said this was He wept over Jerusalem. Jesus would have gathered them “as a hen would her chicks.”

It was hard for Jesus because He loved His people and wanted the, to be saved. The first verse of our text indicates to me that Jesus was wanting to go on to Jerusalem and face all He would go through – in order to ascend to Heaven to be with His Father – as the Father’s right hand. So, as I see it, Jesus knew He would be victorious. This is important to realize that Jesus would be victorious and would regain His position in Heaven. Luke understood this as I see it in the first verse of our text.

Jesus steadfastly, Jesus resolutely was going to enter Jerusalem was prophesized by Isiah in Isa 50:7 which reads:

**Isaiah 50:7 (NIV)**
Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore, have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. Jesus knew He would be victorious – He had fought the fight in Gethsemane.

Jesus focus was on His certain death in Jerusalem. It was on His resurrection and His getting His glory back. He did not run from things. His death on the Cross why He came to earth. His death was not the end of things. And He was assured that He would live through it all. Jesus was looking beyond the suffering, the scoffing, the prejudice, the spitting in His face, the false trials before Pilate and Herod, looking beyond His physical need to have someone carry His cross – He Knew the fact one criminal would despise Him, He was looking toward one who repented and accepted Him, Jesus was looking to His glorious resurrection, and His appearances to many followers and gaining victory over sin, death, and the devil.

**Luke 9:52-56 (NIV)**
52 And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him;

**They were to make ready for him to enter Jerusalem** —Now, Jesus had not done this before; since the timing was not right; they evidently were to prepare for what is called the Feast of the Tabernacles or the Feast of the Passover. We see verses which tell us this:

**John 7:2 (NIV)**
2 But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near,

**John 7:10 (NIV)**
10 However, after his brothers had left for the Feast, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. He followed the Jewish calendar – and the Passover points to Jesus sacrifice of Himself on the Cross.

53 but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.

The Samaritans and the Jews did not get along. We see this in the account of the Samaritan woman in John chapter four: She had come to get water from the well. Jesus told the woman how to find living water, He told her and us that this would satisfy the real thirst she and we have. And she became a believer and ran into town to tell the men the good news where to find living water. She came to get regular well water but received instead faith in Jesus the living water.

The Samaritans worshipped at a different location than the regular Jews.. Jesus was not the enemy of the Samaritans – He loves all – whether they receive Him or not. Red and yellow, black, and white all are precious in His sight.

These Samaritans **did not receive Him!** The Galileans seem to have met with no such hostility. So, they were asked to prepare forJesus going into Jerusalem. There were fewer national prejudices with the Galileans. Jesus of course loved them as well. The disciples were to prepare for what we call the Last Supper. And it took place at the time of the Passover.

At first, the Samaritan Woman could not understand Jesus. She tried to change the subject – because she was uncomfortable. Some folks today are extremely uncomfortable – especially when it comes to spiritual matters. And to be sure the Samaritan woman had never met a man like Jesus – she could tell He was not like certain other men. There is something about Jesus that draws people to believe in Him/

**John 4:20 (NIV)**
Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." So, there was national and spiritual prejudices involved.

54 When the disciples James and John saw this prejudice among the Samaritans, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"

What a thing to ask Jesus! Call down fire from Heaven! And it is interesting that it is **James and John**—not *Peter*, as we should have expected this from Peter since Peter often acted without much thought – however, James and John are known as the *"sons of thunder"* ([Mk 3:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+3%3A17)), who wanted to have all the highest honors in the Kingdom of Jesus to themselves – they wanted to sit on Jesus right and left side – So, they had already been scolded by Jesus and had been sternly rebuked already for this way of thinking. Here they wanted to call down fire and destroy the Samaritans.

**Mark 3:17 (NIV)**
 James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder).

We remember how Elijah called down fire from the Lord – a fire which consumed all that which the Baal worshippers had set up – their altar and all – and fire from the Lord also killed 50 of them right on the spot.  James and John must have remembered Elijah and the fire which the Lord sent upon the Baal worshippers.

**2 Kings 1:10-12 (NIV)**
10 Elijah answered the captain, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!" Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men.
11 At this the king sent to Elijah another captain with his fifty men. The captain said to him, "Man of God, this is what the king says, 'Come down at once!'"
12 “If I am a man of God," Elijah replied, "may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!" Then the fire of God fell from heaven and consumed him and his fifty men.

It looks like to me that James and John still had not caught the message of Jesus. The very men Jesus had spent time with, instructing them, did not understand His mission. His way was and is the way of love – even to those who desecrate the things of the Lord and do not believe at all.

55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them,
56 and they went to another village.

[**Verse 56**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+9%3A56)**.**

**Then Jesus went to another village: There was no use for Jesus to continue right then to go to Jerusalem. His purpose was to save souls not to enter disagreements that not even He could solve. Unwilling hearts will remain just that, unwilling hearts. He once said if the message of salvation is not received, shake off the dust and go somewhere where people will listen. Jesus is not wanting to destroy with fire and brimstone. Some say that Jesus mentioned hell a lot – I do not find this to be true. Matthew recorded this in Matthew 10:23 which reads:**

**Matthew 10:23 (NIV)**
When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Jesus went steadfastly toward Jerusalem, and He did so of His own free will. Jesus said, “No man taketh it (His Life) from me, but I lay it down of myself.

When we go back to Luke 9:51 – we see that Jesus was in reality looking beyond all that would happen to Him. The key is seen in the first words of verse 51: “As the time approached for him to be taken up into heaven:”

The struggle in Gethsemane was over. Jesus had the assurance that He would be taken up into Heaven. He knew He would be victorious. He was going back to His Heavenly Father.

We do not often mention Jesus ascension. We often speak about Jesus and what He faced in Jerusalem – as the basis for our salvation – and we should – still Jesus ascension to Heaven is also a part of what we might say is our guarantee of our personal salvation. He knew of His ascension before He went to Jerusalem. Jesus knew of His victory and Luke mentions it here and Luke is the only one who tells about this – that Jesus fore knew about His returning in victory.

I am thinking then that Jesus had in mind the victory over what happened in Jerusalem. Jesus knew that He would raise from the grave. He knew He would be taken up into Heaven. He knew He would be at the right hand of the Father. He knew He would once again regain all He had given up to come to this earth.

**Acts 1:9-11 (NIV)**
9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.
10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.
11 “Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Now Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, praying for us. He has completed His work here and will return again – Come Lord Jesus, come.

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