

Luke 9:1-62

Take Off the Training Wheels

Training wheels serve a purpose, but ***to grow we must eventually remove them***

- Up to this time Jesus had chosen the 12 (Luk 6:13) --- Trained them (Luk 8:1) --- Spent time with them (Mar 3:14) --- **Now He is sending them out** to do His work
- Here are 15 Lessons to Encourage Those Who Are Stepping Out Into Ministry

1) He is the Source - don't be afraid - this work is generated by Him

Luk 9:1-2 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.

- He did the **calling** --- the **giving** of resources & abilities --- & He **SENT** them

EXAMPLES of others who were unsure about taking first steps into ministry:

- Moses -- Exo 4:10-12 - Who made man's mouth
- Jeremiah -- Jer 1:6-8 - Say not, I am a child: you shall go to all that I shall send you

2) The Message is Simple - Yet Powerful - Anyone Can Do It

Luk 9:2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal...vs 11 [Jesus himself preached the kingdom] --- 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.

We are called to preach the Kingdom of God

- It is bringing the rule of Christ into every venue of life in every nation NOW
- Colossians 1:13-14 ESV ***He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son***, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- Your kingdom come = **your will be done in earth** as it is in heaven
- **Calls for repentance** - repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand
- **Calls for a change of priorities** - seek first the kingdom of God

3) He Always Provides

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.

- Hudson Taylor - "God's work, done God's way, will never lack God's supply."
- Seems counter-intuitive - but it places trust in God - adds an element of adventure
- Gideon - 300 against 30,000 --- feeding 5000 --- tax money out of the fish mouth

4) Don't Fear Rejection

- *How People Respond Is Not Our Responsibility*

- Rejection causes many to be paralyzed - we fear stepping out for fear of rejection --- try it --- once you get the first hit its not so bad.

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.

5) Who is Jesus?

- *Settle this question & all other issues are settled*

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

- Many would acknowledge he was a great teacher or prophet - but their lives remain unchanged.
- In 2Co 11:3-4 Paul talked about a concern that people will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes and **proclaims another Jesus** than the one we proclaimed, or if you **receive a different spirit** from the one you received, or if **you accept a different gospel** from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.
- **Paul found out who Jesus was and it revolutionized his life** --- Act 9:5 ESV And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "**I am Jesus**, whom you are persecuting.

6) Spend Time With Christ

- *Refuel & Be Spiritually Refreshed -- apart from Him we can do nothing*

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.

7) No Problem is Too Great for Him

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.

- Psa 61:2 ESV from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I
- Jas 1:5 If we lack wisdom -- ASK

8) We Need to Die to Self Daily

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."

Deny Self (Not My Will) - Take Up the Cross (but your will) Daily - Follow Me

23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

- This saying, if you want to find your life you must lose it, is repeated six times in the gospels:
- What does it mean? --- Jim Elliot once said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." --- He was a young man who became a martyr for Jesus Christ. Was his life wasted?

What profit if I gain the world and lose my soul

25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

Will He Be Ashamed of Me?

26 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

- Heb 2:11 --- he is not ashamed to call them brothers,
- Heb 11:16 --- God is not ashamed to be called their God,

Some will not taste death til they see the kingdom of God

27 But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

- Jesus is talking about dying to self - in doing this we will save our life
- Some will refuse to take up the cross and die "taste death"
- They will not taste death until Christ returns and they die the second death

9) We must learn to "Hear Him"

- *The pre-eminence of Christ*
- *Don't lose your focused attention - it is easy to become distracted*

28 Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his

clothing became dazzling white. 30 And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33 And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. 34 As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" 36 And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

- 2Pe 1:17-21 ESV 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. 19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

10) You will not always succeed

- *we are learning and growing & we will grow from our mistakes*
- *Kids who were learning without training wheels fell*
- *babies learning to walk - fall - we don't say --- hey they are not going to try that again*

37 On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. 38 And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. 39 And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. 40 And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." 41 Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." 42 While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. 43 And all were astonished at the majesty of God. But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples,

11) You Will Always Be Learning

- *there are things that come only by revelation - be content with that - and if there are things you don't understand now - give it time*

44 "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men." 45 But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

12) Greatness is found in serving

46 An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. 47 But Jesus, knowing the

reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side 48 and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great."

13) Learn to work with others

- *You are not the only kid in the sandbox*

49 John answered, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us." 50 But Jesus said to him, "Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you." 51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

14) Don't burn Bridges

- *When people don't receive you kick off the dust, but don't call down fire*

52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 And they went on to another village.

- Your enemies can become your greatest ally - think of the apostle Paul
- Those who disappoint you can become your partner
 - John Mark - Pau did not want to take because he seemed uncommitted
 - Later he wrote - bring John he is profitable for me in the ministry

15) Its not about You

- *Don't serve Jesus for what He can give you - you will be disappointed*

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." 59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

- I know that Jesus blesses us - but we don't serve him for that reason
- He is committed to HIS purpose - he is looking for people who will be as well