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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## Luke 9.

(2013)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## Luke 9.

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### Topics.

- Jesus gives the twelve, power and authority over all sicknesses.
- Shake the dust from your feet.
- Jesus feeds the five-thousand.
- Peter's confession, "Jesus is the Christ."
- Let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily.
- Whoever saves their life will lose it, whoever loses their life will save it.
- Some here will not taste death until they see the Kingdom of God.
- Moses and Elijah on the Mountain of Transfiguration.
- Jesus heals a man's son of a demon.
- Foxes have holes and birds have nests.

**The Previous Chapter:** in the previous chapter the apostles, Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna travelled with Jesus throughout villages and towns proclaiming the Gospel. Jesus explained the parable of the sower, sailed with the disciples across the Sea of Galilee, calmed the storm and on the shore of Gerasenes he healed a man named Legion, a woman with an issue of blood, and raised Jairus only daughter from the dead.

**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### Jesus gives the Twelve Power and Authority over all Sicknesses.

Luke 9:1-6 ----- <sup>1</sup>And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup>and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. <sup>3</sup>And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. <sup>4</sup>And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. <sup>5</sup>And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>6</sup>And they (the apostles) departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

### For information on demons see the title: -

- Demons in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Jesus gives the apostles power over all kinds of sicknesses (i.e., mental and physical disabilities and all kinds of diseases), but not over creation as Christ himself had (feeding of the five-thousand with fish and calming the storm etc.). He sent the twelve out to do the following two things: proclaim the Kingdom of God and heal the sick.

It is interesting to notice that Jesus tells the twelve not to take a staff, a bag, bread, money or an extra tunic (v3), but after he had eaten broken bread and shared the cup of wine with the apostles at the Passover meal (the Last Supper) he told them to take a money bag (their purse in KJV) a knapsack (their script in KJV) and a sword with them (Luke 22:35-36).

## **Witnessing and the Apostles.**

The twelve were to travel to a town, find some people that would welcome them into their house and allow them to stay and use their house as their headquarters while they proclaimed the Kingdom of God and healed the sick in that town. This does not necessarily mean that all twelve stayed in the same house it is more likely that they split into groups of two's and threes and stayed in different homes and even different towns so that the word of God spread more rapidly. If no-one in the town was prepared to put them up in their home they were to move onto the next town. They obviously found plenty of people who welcomed them into their homes we know this because we are told they went through the villages, preaching the Gospel and healing everywhere.

## **Shake the Dust from your Feet.**

If the townsfolk rejected the apostles Jesus told them to shake the dust from their feet as a testimony against that town. When people reject the Gospel Jesus does not want those who have witnessed in his name to stress, worry or carry the burden, but rather move on to others who are seeking to know the God. Those who hear the Gospel are responsible for their own decision, no-one can make it for them, all Jesus desires of any disciple, is to share their faith, he does not expect them to lose sleep because those they have attempted to witness to have rejected the message.

When witnessing it is always encouraging to remember, "You cannot say the wrong thing to a person who has a right heart attitude, but neither can you say the right thing to person who has a wrong heart attitude."

## **Herod the Tetrarch.**

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

Herod is a compound of the word heroes and was the name of four Jewish kings, the word tetrarch (a plural number four) refers to the ruler of a fourth part of a country. Herod hears what has been happening concerning Jesus and thought John the Baptist had been raised, some believed Christ was Elijah and others believed he was one of the prophets from the Old Testament who had risen. It is most likely most thought Jesus was a great prophet as not even the disciples fully understood who Jesus was until he appeared to them after his death and resurrection (Peter confessed him as the Christ, but was later confused) (v20).

## **Jesus feeds the Five-Thousand.**

Luke 9:10-17 ----- <sup>10</sup>On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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." <sup>13</sup>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." <sup>14</sup>For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." <sup>15</sup>And they did so, and had them all sit down. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

**Imagine for a moment:** the apostles were ordinary men (they could be anyone of us), Jesus called them from normal everyday jobs, and now they have performed multitudes of stunning and overwhelming miracles.

They have seen people healed from crippling sickness, mental disorders and diseases ponder for a moment their enormous excitement in returning to tell Jesus all they have seen.

### **Jesus Feeds the Five-Thousand.**

Jesus takes them to Bethsaida on the North shore of the Sea of Galilee (very close to Capernaum), the crowds followed them and Jesus spoke to them of the Kingdom of God and healed all who were sick. Night is drawing near, they are in a desolate place and Jesus knowing the apostles only have five loaves and two fish tells them to feed over five-thousand people, of course they say it's impossible. Then Jesus prays and the Spirit of His heavenly Father is manifested through him. Jesus has the crowd sit in an orderly fashion, breaks the bread and the five loaves and the two fish miraculously multiply in the twelve baskets and everyone who came to hear him was satisfied added to this spectacular miracle twelve baskets of broken pieces were left over.

**The symbolism:** Jesus later says of himself: -

- I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst (John 6:35, 48).

This story is teaching that whoever comes to Jesus will be more than satisfied (spiritually) and even though they are saved to eternal life they still remain broken pieces, meaning with flaws.

### **Peter's confession, Jesus is the Christ**

Luke 9:18-22 ----- <sup>18</sup>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?" <sup>19</sup>And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen." <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God." <sup>21</sup>And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, <sup>22</sup>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.*"

### **Reasons Jesus did not want it known he was the Christ: -**

Jesus did not want people knowing he was the Christ, the Son of God

1. Because the Jews (especially the religious leaders the chief priest, Pharisees, and scribes) were so fiercely against him because he had said he was the Son of God which to the Jews was blasphemy, added to this Jesus knew the chief priests and Pharisees were seeking a reason to kill him, but it was not yet his time to be put to death.
2. Many of the people wanted to make him King, but Jesus did not want to give or encourage others to make him King since his primary ministry for that age was to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and to teach the twelve, his ministry it was not to lead them as a King or even to heal the sick. Healing was to evidence that he was the Son of God and acts of compassion.

God through Isaiah spoke of Christ saying: -

- I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness (echoing Christ) I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, *to open the eyes that are blind*, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness (Isaiah 42:6-7).

And Jesus to evidence to John the Baptist that he is the Christ that was prophesied to come tells John's disciples to tell John: -

- The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them (Matt 11:5).

## **Christ will be Killed and on the third Day Rise.**

Jesus told the disciples that he must be killed and raised the third day. In the book of Matthew he said: -

- For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matt. 12:40) (referring to Jonah 1:17).

The phrase, "Three days and three nights" is a Jewish idiom for three days. Even though Jesus told the disciples this they did not fully understand what he meant until he appeared to them after his death and resurrection.

## **For further information on: three days and three nights see: -**

- Three Days and Three Nights in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

## **Let them deny themselves and take up their Cross Daily.**

Luke 9:23-26 ----- <sup>23</sup>And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. <sup>25</sup>For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? <sup>26</sup>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.

Taking up the cross and denying self is in the context of following Christ. To follow Christ involves denying self, self wants the freedom to do what it wants it may lay dormant for awhile but it is always alive and never dies that is why Christ says, "Take up your cross daily." Self is always craving to have its own way and constantly longing to satisfy itself. Taking up your cross means denying those things that stand between you and Christ or are opposed to God's will and His ways. Denying self and taking up the cross is basically the same thing.

Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane prayed to his heavenly Father: -

- If there is any other way to save mankind please remove this cup from me.

And then ended his prayer with: -

- Not my will but yours be done.

Take up your cross daily means denying the things self wants to do or doing the things self does not want to do and also includes forsaking what self wants when it hinders following Christ or is offensive to God. Taking up your cross and denying self are linked together, you cannot have one without the other (i.e., to taking up your cross will mean denying something self wants). Taking up the cross and denying self carries the idea of refusing to do the things that self wants because it would hinder a disciple sharing their faith or bring a bad testimony to God and the name of Christ. The more a person denies self the more they will know the love and presence of Christ and the more a person knows the love and presence of Christ the more they will want to die to self.

## **Whoever saves their Life will lose it, whoever loses their Life will Save It.**

The focus of Jesus words: -

- Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it (v24).

Is mortal life and eternal life, we know this because he immediately says: -

- For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits himself? (meaning if they save their mortal life, but lose eternal life).

Jesus is saying whoever denies Christ, so they can save their mortal life may save their mortal life from death, but they will not be granted eternal life, but whoever is prepared to lay down their mortal life for Christ may lose their mortal life but will be raised to eternal life it is in this sense that they save their life. This links back to the previous verses speaking of denying Christ and taking up your cross, though the primary focus is mortal life and eternal life, the principal is not limited to salvation only we know this because Jesus tells his disciples to: -

- Take up their cross daily and follow him.

If those who confess Christ want to be a disciple they have to be prepared to forsake daily whatever stands in the way of following Christ even if it means they might lose their mortal life.

### **Some here will not Taste Death until they see the Kingdom of God.**

Luke 9:27-36 ----- <sup>27</sup>But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God." <sup>28</sup>Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup>who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" <sup>36</sup>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.

Jesus words, "Truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God." Can relate to the following two events: -

1. To Peter, John and James who eight days later saw Christ glorified on the Mount of Transfiguration.
2. To those who saw Christ after his death and resurrection.

### **Moses and Elijah on the Mountain of Transfiguration.**

In the book of Matthew Jesus commanded Peter James and John, "Not to tell anyone *the vision*, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead." (Matt. 17:9).

**Visions:** can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. In most cases God gives the picture or vision then the prophet speaks or writes it in their own words. Sometimes the same biblical event or experience is spoken of as an actual and real event, while at other times the same event maybe recorded as a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind).

A biblical vision is always under God's control and can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of the prophet or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to.

The vision communicates the LORD'S will or future events to the prophet who then proceeds to tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words the LORD has spoken to them in the vision. This vision on the Mount of Transfiguration appears to be some form of hologram since Peter James and John all saw it. Nevertheless, I feel to limit the wondrous events that took place on this mountain entirely to a vision is a little too simplistic for such a majestic event, so I am willing to let mystery prevail and accept that some parts of it were in vision form while other parts may have been very real.

## **Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus.**

Some use the fact Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus to support the theory that all the Old Testament prophets and saints are in heaven, but this event is describe by Jesus as a vision and like John's vision of unfulfilled events in the book of Revelation, cannot be taken as a statement of the actual survival of Moses and Elijah or used to support the idea all Old Testament saints are in heaven.

This is reading far more into the vision than it is saying, especially since the writer to the Hebrews thinks of all the Old Testament heroes of faith, including Moses and the prophets, as having died, without receiving the promised reward (Heb. 11:13) and says others refused to accept release and torture so that they might *rise again to a better life* (Heb. 11:35).

Adding to these statements the author of Hebrews then goes on to say that the saints of the Old Testament will not be made perfect without us (Heb. 11:39-40) It can hardly be that Moses and Elijah had been resurrected to immortality in advance of Jesus who is the firstfruits from the dead, the Scripture teaches that those in Christ will all be made alive, but each in their own order, Christ being the first and then everyone who belongs to him when he returns (1 Cor. 15:20-23).

### **For more information see titles: -**

- Death (What happens when we Die) in Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

### **The Disciples told no-one of what they had Seen (v36).**

In Matthew's account of the same event we are told that Jesus told Peter James and John not to tell anyone of what they had seen (Matt 17:9) and in many other verses Jesus often told those he had healed not to tell anyone of their healing.

Following are two reasons Jesus often told the sick not to tell of their healings: -

1. Because once the people heard that Jesus could heal they came by the multitudes and the crowds grew so vast that neither Jesus nor the twelve had time to relax, rest, eat or even sleep and his primary ministry was not healing, but to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God to various cities, towns and villages and teach and train the apostles. Jesus miracles were signs to confirm that he was the Son of God and sent by God and acts of compassion, but the more miracles he did the more the crowds gathered to him and this added fuel to the already raging jealousy and wrath of the religious leaders (the chief priests Pharisees and scribes) who were already seeking ways to have him put to death.
2. Jesus did not want to stir up the anger of the religious leaders as it was not yet the right time for him to lay down his life.

### **Jesus Heals a man's Son of a Demon.**

Luke 9:37-42 ----- <sup>37</sup>On the next day, when they (Peter John and James) had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup>And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." <sup>41</sup>Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." <sup>42</sup>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.

A man whose son often had some kind of epileptic seizure or something similar (called a demon or unclean spirit in Jesus generation) sees Jesus and knowing he had the power to heal his son, but not knowing if he would, humbles himself before Jesus and pleads that he will heal his only child.

## **Demons, Devils and Sickness.**

The English word demon and demons are not found in the entire King James Bible. In the New Testament of the King James Bible the translators have unfortunately translated both (diabolos) and (daimion) as devil or devils which gives a completely wrong understanding of the Greek words diabolos (devil) and daimion (demon) and has over the years led to a misunderstanding of the difference between devils and demons. Most modern Bible versions have translated Demons (daimion) and Devils (diabolos) correctly. The word demons (daimion) was believed to be an inferior deity or god and primarily relates to sickness whereas devils (diabolos) means a false accuser or slander and primarily relates to people's behavior and not sickness.

## **The Jews and Demons.**

The Jews believed demons to be an inferior evil god or deity that held possession of those with severe sickness either bodily or mentally those that were mentally sick were believed to be possessed by an evil inferior god called daimon. They believed that the demons (daimonions) so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves thus they believed that people possessed with demons were forced by the demons to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them, and the only cure was by the expulsion of the demons.

The fact that the Pharisees and scribes and certain Jews believed John the Baptist and Jesus were possessed by demons clearly shows us that just because the religious leaders of Jesus era believed mental illness, deafness, blindness and sickness they didn't understand were also a result of demons does not mean it is a true fact.

## **The biblical difference between Sickness and Demons.**

In most instances when people have an illness that does not control the person, it is referred to in biblical writings as a sickness, but when a sickness (mental illness) controls a person to do things they do not want to do (have fits etc.), they are referred to as having demons or an unclean spirit.

Thus sickness commonly related to illnesses the people understood, while demons primarily relate to severe illnesses and diseases, either bodily or mentally the people did not understand. Just because people believe something does not mean it is true if the Bible were being written today it would contain words like bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia epilepsy, melancholy, loss of speech etc., which in the New Testament are referred to as unclean spirits, demons or caused by demons as are paralysis, blindness and deafness and any other sickness the people did not understand.

## **One super evil god in control of millions of lesser evil gods.**

Any force in a human that controls a person to do things they cannot control themselves, things that affects their behavior and mental well-being, voices or words in the mind and severe diseases, either bodily or mentally, (such as schizophrenia paralysis, blindness, deafness, loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy, insanity and seizures etc., plus speeches that entice people against the things of God and God Himself are all commonly called demons in the New Testament.

But the Bible does not present a picture of one super evil god (slightly less in power than God) being in control of millions of lesser but evil gods. This is a modern day misunderstanding of the language of the Bible. Demons are not evil people as Hollywood portrays demon possessed people in their movies. People in the Bible that had demons were morally good people and in some case only children who were sadly afflicted with especially severe diseases, either bodily or mentally such as paralysis, blindness, deafness and loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy and insanity, etc.

In the opinion of the Jews demons had entered their bodies, and so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves.



The people of Jesus age believed the possessed were driven to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them; and their only cure was thought to require the expulsion of the demon.

### **The Origin of Demons.**

A demon is believed to be a supernatural being, spirit, or force capable of influencing human lives, usually by evil means. Demons have played a role in the traditions of most religions. The practice of expelling demons (exorcism) that possess people or places has been carried out by many religions. The belief in evil spirits and their ability to influence the lives of people dates from prehistoric times. Many early people believed that spirits occupied all elements of nature.

Evil spirits or demons were spirits that brought harm to living people. Societies that believed in demons sought to influence the actions of both good and bad spirits through worship and sacrifices. Some ancient societies, including those in Egypt and Babylonia (now Iraq), believed that such spirits were responsible for the functions of the body and that demons caused specific illnesses.

The word demon originated from an ancient Greek term, daimon, which referred to beings whose special powers placed them between people and the gods. These beings had the ability either to improve people's lives or carry out the punishment of the gods. Basic Christian ideas about demons originated from references to evil beings or unclean spirits in the Old Testament.

By the middle ages, Christian theology had developed an elaborate hierarchy of angels, who were associated with God, and fallen angels, or demons, who were led by satan. Satan himself was considered the original fallen angel. In most English versions of the Bible, the term demon is translated as devil, and in the New Testament, demon is identified with an evil spirit. Islam also developed a complex system of demons. Muslim writings describe a group of evil beings, called jinn, who cause destruction and preside over places where evil activities take place. The original jinn was called Iblis, who was cast out by Allah for refusing to worship Adam, the first man.

### **Modern day misunderstanding of Demons.**

Demons can be seen as any controlling power or force in people that is destructive to their well-being, science says, anorexia and such like are mental problems and not physical, doctors call anorexia a destructive mental power or force whereas the Bible calls it, demons meaning, something that is destructive to a humans well-being. It is not the Bible that is wrong, but the modern day misunderstanding of the terminology and language of the Bible because modern generations have been influenced by a wrong understanding of the language used during the time of Jesus and the apostles.

Today's generations primary understanding of demons comes from Hollywood and not New Testament or spiritual thinking because of this to think of someone having a demon is highly offensive as it implies they are either extremely evil or extremely morally bankrupt which not one of the persons who are said to have demons in the Bible were.

### **SOME SIMILAR BIBLICAL STORIES.**

**A Woman and her daughter:** a Greek Syrophenician woman asked Jesus to cast forth the demon (daimon) (meaning an inferior deity or god) out of her daughter, Jesus said the demon is gone out of her daughter and when she went to her house, she found her daughter healed. This is a woman's young daughter, a child. The child would not be evil or morally bankrupt, this was not an inferior evil god or deity possessing the child as the Jews believed but a mental disorder or disease (Mark 7:23-30).

**A man and his child:** a man tells Jesus that a spirit takes his child, and the son cries out during his epileptic fits and the boy suffers bodily harm. This is a man loved his son, the child would certainly not be evil or morally bankrupt, the spirit, is not an evil god possessing the child as the Jews believed, but a mental disorder, illness or disease (Luke 9:37-41).

**A lunatic:** a man came to Jesus and asked him to have mercy on his son telling Jesus that his son is lunatic (meaning affected by the moon), and often has very bad fits that sometimes seriously harm the boy (Matt. 17:14-18). The Jews believed evil inferior gods caused mental disorders and the Greeks believed the moon could cause bodily seizures or fits.

Today we know the moon does not cause illness, but understand that the child had epilepsy or a similar disease and was having a fit, the Greeks and the Jews knew nothing of epilepsy or the like so they simply referred to illnesses and sicknesses they did not understand as being the result of the moon or the sick person being possessed by inferior evil gods. The Jews mistaken understanding of demons was the same as the Greeks wrong belief about the moon.

### **There are many so-called gods in Heaven and on Earth.**

The Bible teaches that there is only one real God and creator of all that exists and His name is I AM the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, yet the apostle Paul says there are many so-called gods in heaven and on earth (1 Cor. 8:5). Immediately after making this statement Paul says, nevertheless not everyone possesses this knowledge. Meaning the knowledge that there are many gods, neither do they understand how and why (1 Cor. 8:7).

Pagans believed in various gods, often referred to as “the god.” These false but very real illusionary gods are created by a very strong belief in “the god” in the imagination of the mind.

The New Testament calls these gods demons (daimonion), but that does not mean real inferior false gods actually exist, they are an entity created by a false belief of the mind, but to the person believing in false gods and demons they are very real entities this is most likely why Jesus did not try to explain the medical terms as we know them today.

Jesus rather than go into lengthy detail to explain in detail the medical causes of sickness simply used the common language of his era and manifested God's power over all other gods people believed in by supernaturally healing people. Once a person saw and experience the healing power of God why would they continue to believe in their false inferior gods who had no power?

When Jesus gave this same healing power to his apostles to heal physical sickness and spiritual or mental disorders of the mind it was not solely so they could deliver people from their sickness, but to prove to the people that they were teaching the words of the only true God and the only way to eternal salvation. Thus the apostles and Jesus ministry was not to teach medical science, but to connect people separated from God to God.

### **Demons (illusionary gods and the Mind).**

Demons as evil spiritual gods only exist in the mind of those who believe in them, they are an image of the mind created by imagination through a false belief in them. This false image in the mind will affect a person's emotions and feelings accordingly because the human nervous system cannot tell the difference between a real image of the mind and a false one.

The imaginary but real images of the mind create real emotions and feelings of fear through the human nervous system and these feelings in turn reinforce and convince those that believe in demons or monsters that real evil gods do exist.

### **Not everything is Black and White:**

Perhaps everything regarding demons is not quite as black and white as I have explained, even the best doctors and scientist in the world today still don't fully understand the cause of many of these illness, but one thing that is very clear and is black and white is that those in the Bible who were said to be possessed by demons were not evil wicked people in fact some were children and others humbly fell at the Lords feet and wanted to follow him added to this God through the Lord Jesus Christ showed them great compassion and mercy.

**For further information see the titles: -**

- Devils.
- Demons.

Both titles are in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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### **"O Faithless and Twisted Generation."**

The following is one possible reason why Jesus called his generation, "Faithless and twisted" (meaning wayward) (v41). He was on his way to Jerusalem and not only was he fully aware of the horror that awaited him he knew that the people (primarily the Jews especially the religious leaders) were going to reject him as the Son of God and the saviour sent by God.

The people constantly came to Jesus for healing but did not acknowledge him as their Messiah or the Christ yet they should have clearly known the time they were in and recognised who he was by the signs he did. When Jesus came down the mountain, we are told, "A great crowd met him" (v37).

Jesus has just been in the presence of God, Elijah and Moses who have spoken of the things Christ must suffer to save mankind, and though multitudes were flocking to him they were only coming for healing, but not for who he was, they came to be healed rather than to know God. (Added to this it was his generation that crucified him).

### **The Son of Man is about to be Delivered into the Hands of Men.**

Luke 9:43-45 ----- <sup>43</sup>And all were astonished at the majesty of God (Jesus had just healed a boy) But while they were all marvelling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, <sup>44</sup>"Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men." <sup>45</sup>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.

Jesus words, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men." Is most likely another reason why Jesus called his generation a, "Faithless and twisted Generation" (v37).

Jesus told the twelve that he would be delivered into the hands of men, killed and then rise the third day, but none of them fully understood God's ultimate plan of salvation or the impending fate that awaited His Son the Lord Jesus Christ until he appeared to them after his death and resurrection it was only then that many things Jesus had told them (prior to his death) made sense.

### **Whoever receives me, receives Him who Sent Me.**

Luke 9:46-48 ----- <sup>46</sup>An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. <sup>47</sup>But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side <sup>48</sup>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."

The disciples were discussing amongst themselves which of them was the greatest (a manifestation of pride) so Jesus takes an unknown child from the crowd and uses the child to teach the disciples that to be great in God's Kingdom one must be like a child, (i.e., children do not discriminate but joyfully play together whether a child's parents are rich or poor, famous or labours etc.).

In these things children are innocent and harmless they are not worried about importance, self-exaltation and being esteemed or exalted by others, in contrast prideful adults want to receive praises and exaltation from their peers and especially to have others consider them important or of great statue.

Jesus words, "Whoever receives a child in my name receives me," means whoever treats and accepts a child with the same care and value that Jesus does will be accepted by him. It is common for adults, especially those who think they are important to view children as less and dismiss them, but Jesus word's show that children to God are as valuable as any adult no matter how talented or how great their ministry might be.

**NOTICE:** if a person belongs to Christ they automatically have the Father, it is impossible to belong to Christ and not belong to the Father receiving Christ is receiving the Father, you cannot have one without the other (v48).

**The one who is not against you is for You.**

Luke 9:49-50 ----- <sup>49</sup>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." <sup>50</sup>But Jesus said to him, "Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you."

For an explanation of "Demons" see notes following (Luke 9:42).

**A great principle:** a group were doing the work of God in the name of Jesus, but because they were not part of Jesus and the apostles group, John wanted Jesus to rebuke and condemn them, but because they were not aggressively against the Lord or his disciples, Jesus rather than condemn them basically tells John to leave them alone. Jesus then takes his group and continues doing what they were called to do.

Jesus is saying, if there are other groups who are not part of your group proclaiming the Gospel of Christ don't consider them an enemy allow them to continue in what they are doing since they are not aggressively opposing you and most likely will reach people your group probably won't.

**Jesus sets His Face to go to Jerusalem.**

Luke 9:51-56 ----- <sup>51</sup>When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup>And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. <sup>53</sup>But the people (of Samaria) did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>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?" <sup>55</sup>But he turned and rebuked them <sup>56</sup>And they went on to another village.

Jesus is fully aware of the horror, pain and suffering that is awaited him at Jerusalem that is why the Scripture says, "He set his face" it implies that a person is about to approach or do something that they don't really want to face, but they make a conscious decision and determine to do it regardless.

**Samaria:** is on the west side of the Jordan River (it is not Assyria) it was the capital of the kingdom of the ten tribes of Israel. During Israel's seventy-year captivity the king of Assyria distributed among the cities of Samaria foreign colonies and so the returning Jews in that region took foreign women for their wives and most likely adopted many of their pagan practices. The Jews at Jerusalem and the inhabitants of Samaria had no dealing with each other. (Samaria today is modern day Syria in Palestine).

**Send Fire down from Heaven and consume Samaria.**

The hatred was so strong between the Jews at Jerusalem and those in Samaria that the Samaritan people would not even accept Jesus simply because he was going to Jerusalem.

When James and John saw this they were furious and wanted Jesus to consume the entire village with fire, but Jesus never responded to do harm to others, the only people he ever rebuked were the prideful and hypercritical religious leaders of his generation who lacked compassion and mercy toward others and especially toward those seeking God.

## **Foxes have Holes and Birds have Nests.**

Luke 9:57-62 ----- <sup>57</sup>As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup>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." <sup>59</sup>To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup>Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." <sup>62</sup>Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Jesus is walking toward Jerusalem about to be mocked, cruelly tortured and then crucified and three men claim they will follow him wherever he goes, but rather than praise them Jesus shows them the cost of actually doing what they are saying. It is very easy to say something, when we are unaware of the ramifications of the boast we are making.

The first man claims he will follow Jesus wherever he goes and Jesus asks him if he is prepared to live without any permanent home. A second man wants time to go and bury his dead father and Jesus tells him to go to the living and proclaim the Kingdom of God instead. The third man states he will follow Jesus, but must first go and say farewell to his family and Jesus tells him no-one who begins the work of God and then turns back is fit for the Kingdom of God.

Jesus is pointing out to all these men and everyone else who boasts that they will follow the Lord the cost of actually doing what they say they will do and what it means to follow Christ and be a disciple.

### **NOTE:**

This does not mean that everyone who accepts Jesus as their Saviour has to leave their home and family, the principal is that if something is standing in a person's way or stopping them from accepting Christ forsake it Christ must be first. Likewise if something is hindering a believer in Christ from being a good testimony to God or the name of Christ or preventing them from sharing their faith forsake it. Jesus is showing us all that to be a faithful disciple he must be seated on the throne of our heart, our mind, our emotions, our soul and our very life nothing should take pre-eminence in the life of a disciple over Christ.

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End