

Episode: Luke Series No. 11

Narrator: John the Apostle

Primary Scriptures: Luke 10

Story Summary: Middle ministry of Jesus

Location: Galilee and Judea

Time: Circa 30 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Luke 10:2, 10:20, 10:24, 10:27-28

John the Apostle was part of the inner circle of Jesus. He was also the author of five books in the New Testament. Yet with all of that, the authors of *Matthew*, *Mark*, and *Luke* hardly quote him.

John called himself “the disciple whom Jesus loved.”¹ That probably wasn’t an overstatement, because Jesus entrusted his mother, Mary, to John upon his death.

As Luke describes the middle part of Jesus’ ministry, he starts relating more stories about the seriousness of committing to follow Jesus. Jesus was running out of time to train his apostles and certainly had less time to spend with disciples who would not fully commit to him. When Jesus sent out the seventy disciples, it was an opportunity for them to learn the rewards of full commitment. One reward was that Jesus saw Satan fall like lightning from the sky.

As you read Luke 10, notice how Jesus stresses the importance of full commitment in both his actions and his stories. Even in his confrontation with the Pharisees, he makes it clear that you simply being close to being committed is not enough. He says we have to love God with all our hearts, soul, strength and mind, and love our neighbors as ourselves. Those are surely high bars of commitment!

Luke is the only Gospel source for the parable of the Good Samaritan. Notice that Jesus tells the parable in response to the question, “Who qualifies for me to love them as much as I love myself?” It is ironic that the expert in the law asked that question to Jesus, since surely Jesus would ask himself that very question on many occasions since the beginning of time. Think of the parable in that context and you may think of Jesus in a new way.

¹ John 13:23

Discussion Questions:

1. John was a fisherman when Jesus met him. When do you think John became so intent on the subject of love?
 2. John was in Jesus' inner circle. Who else was part of that circle? When do you think his inner circle understood that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God?
 3. What did Jesus say to confirm the success of the seventy-two he sent out? []. What does evangelistic success look like today?
2. Peter and James, and sometimes Andrew. 3. He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Application Questions:

1. Jesus demands that his disciples fully commit to him. What would that look like in your life? What does it look like *not* to fully commit to him?
2. What do you remember of the story of the Good Samaritan that you learned as a child?
3. Concerning the story where Martha serves Jesus while Mary listens to him teach, do you identify more with Martha or Mary? What things distract you from more important things? Are those different distractions than before you got a smart phone?
4. The teacher of the law asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. How would you answer that question if somebody asks you? Can you back up your answer with Scripture you have memorized?
5. What does it look like to love someone as much as you love yourself? Was Jesus being overly dramatic or literal? How good are you at loving yourself?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. Jesus said to love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. Is it even possible to do that in today's world? Name the three things that you love the most, using your free time as the measurement.
2. The expert in the law said that the neighbor was the one who had mercy. Name some people who have had mercy on you. Is there someone you need to have mercy on today, even if it is inconvenient for you to do so?
3. Jesus said that no one knows who God is except those to whom Jesus chooses to reveal him. One of the ways Jesus reveals God is through Scripture. Name some of the characteristics of God that you know by personal experience. Do those line up with Scripture or are they just your perceptions?
4. What does it look like to love someone as much as you love yourself? Was Jesus being overly dramatic or literal? How good are you at loving yourself?