

## Sermon Discussion

### 27 March 2022

Read Luke 11:1-27

#### Dig Deeper

Luke alone recorded that Jesus gave the Twelve both **power** (*Greek, “dynamis” or spiritual ability*) and **authority** (*Greek “exousia” or the right to exercise power*). The parallel Gospel accounts refer only to authority. In both his Gospel and in Acts, Luke stressed the validation of gospel preaching with signs and wonders. Other false teachers could do powerful miracles, presumably by Satan’s power (see Acts 13:6-10; 19:13). Consequently, it was necessary that Jesus’ disciples could validate their preaching with powerful miracles as Jesus did.

The **Feeding of the 5,000** is the only miracle that all four Gospel evangelists recorded. It is important because it is the climax of Jesus’ miracles that authenticated His person as divine. It was perhaps the most forceful demonstration of Jesus’ deity to the disciples. Jesus performed this miracle primarily for their benefit though also out of compassion for the people.

Luke’s account here does not differ from the others significantly. The miracle shows that when believers become **partners with Jesus** in the execution of His mission, He can enable them to provide greater blessing for others than they can by themselves.

**Denying self** is more fundamental than denying things. Criminals going to crucifixion normally carried the crosspiece of their own cross. Carrying one’s own cross implied bearing the burden associated with one’s chosen way of life. Jesus meant that His disciples had to bear a particular burden that non-disciples did not have to bear. Jesus’ disciples must keep following Him daily and bear the consequences of their choice that will involve loss (v. 24-25) and shame (v. 26) for them.

1. What has God been teaching you this week, whether through your prayer and fasting, or in other ways?
  
2. Read Luke 9:1-5. What comes to your mind about the strange instructions Jesus gave the disciples as he sent them out?
  
3. In the sermon, you heard about the important rhythm of “gathering and scattering.” We see Jesus employing it here in Luke 9 and we see this dynamic at work in our lives as disciples as well. Many of us have experienced the rhythm of gathering for worship and being sent out into the world of our everyday lives. What does this look like in your life today?

4. Reflecting on the thought that “We can’t separate spiritual formation from redemptive mission.” (Aaron Niequist), what does that mean to you?

### **Application & Prayer**

A challenging teaching appears in this section- *“Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for my sake will save it.” Luke 9:23-24*

- Meditating on this for a few quiet moments, what does it say to you? (Perhaps re-read it a couple times and soak in the words).
- As we consider the practice of fasting, how does fasting help prepare our hearts to apply the truth contained in Jesus’ words?
- We hears this summary, “Fasting is a way of saying NO to ourselves in order to say YES to others.” What opportunities are there that you can say “Yes” to? Are there any opportunities or service that we can do collectively?