

Bible passage:	Luke 9:10-17
Theme:	Radical service
Key verse:	"You give them something to eat." (Luke 9:13)

Introduction: explaining context and setting the scene.

Salvation & Healing (& eating) are constantly being intertwined in Luke's Gospel...

By the time we get to Luke 9, Jesus has demonstrated that the 'new covenant' is changing the way everyone thinks about 'faith'.

In Luke 7 and 8:

- When the disciples think they're going to drown in the boat in the storm, Jesus asks them, 'where is your faith?' (Luke 8:25)
- Jesus tells the 'sinful woman' who has anointed his feet with perfume that her faith has saved her, and to go in peace (Luke 7:50)
- The woman who had been bleeding for 12 years touched Jesus' cloak and Jesus tells her that her faith has healed her and he tells her to go in peace (Luke 8:48)

Jesus has indicated that faith is about:

- fellowship with sinners, and
- who is in charge of the sabbath
- Jesus emphasises that hearing and doing God's Word is more important – even – than family (Luke 8:16-21)

1. Hearing and Doing

When Jesus sends out the Twelve in Luke 9:6 – they go from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere...

9:11

In Bethsaida, we've got a huge crowd of 5,000 and Jesus welcomes them, speaks about the Kingdom of God, and heals those who need healing...

9:12

The 12 disciples say, send the crowd away so they can eat and sleep...

9:13 – 15

Jesus replies, "You give them something to eat."

The disciples told Jesus what they had – two fish and five loaves – and the disciples told Jesus that what they had in their hands wasn't enough to feed the crowd.

2. Heaven and Earth – Jesus' ministry on earth – and for eternity

9:16

Luke uses the familiar words of the Lord's Supper: Jesus 'gave thanks and broke them' – and then gave them to the disciples to hand out...

If we look back to 9:7

Herod was musing on who Jesus is:

- Jesus could be John the Baptist raised from the dead
- He could be Elijah
- He could be Moses

Is Jesus a resurrected John, a new Elijah, or a new Moses?

9:16

Jesus is revealed here in a meal – just as his identity is revealed in the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19) when he breaks bread with his disciples, just before his death and resurrection...

Jesus is the new Moses – about to lead a new exodus (Exodus 16+4)

Jesus is the new Elijah – who provides for his people (2 Kings 4:42 to 44)

Jesus is the new John – Herod's musings are foreshadowing Jesus' resurrection

1. Ultimately, this meal on a mountainside in Bethsaida foreshadows Jesus' Messianic role as the new banquet host (Isaiah 25:6-9; Isaiah 55:1-2)
2. The feast in Luke 9 feeds 5,000 people at the end of a long day – but in the Kingdom, Jesus is host of a feast that is free – and forever.
3. The baskets of leftovers are a sign that this feast will continue – and never end. No one need ever leave the heavenly banquet.

3. Hope in the wilderness

9:11

Jesus welcomes the crowd in the wilderness

- Our world is a world of hunger & pain
- We long for meaning, intimacy, fulfilment, community, purpose and joy
- We long for the world to be sorted out
- In this service, we are focusing our thoughts and our prayers on the people of Ethiopia, as more than 7 million people experience extreme hunger and famine conditions, and don't know where their next meal will come from
- The story of the 5,000 is about the disciples sense that they lack what they need, while Jesus' actions point to abundance
- We need a theology of 'left over'
- The disciples thought their five loaves were finite resources
- 5,000 people later, they still had 12 baskets of bread: More than they started with.
- Jesus tells us to feed people:
 - he gives thanks for the little we bring to him, and he breaks it open and tells us to give it away
 - and he keeps multiplying it – the Kingdom never runs out...

We are invited to invoke the same healing, creative power that Jesus displays here on this mountainside on Bethsaida – in all that we do...

This is about hearing the word of God – and then putting it into action.

This is about focusing on our lives in the light of eternity.

This is about us being disciples of Christ that point to there being hope in the wilderness.

How can we respond?

Fridge Twinning is asking us to donate £30 each to twin our fridges at home.

As a Church we can take an offering today – and every £30 we raise will feed a family for just under two weeks.

Less than six months ago £30 would have fed a family in Ethiopia for nearly 30 days. But now, with the combination of prolonged drought and violent conflict, people are forced to rely on expensive food imports. The war in Ukraine is causing prices to skyrocket even further.

Across Ethiopia, the price of basic food supplies such as cooking oil and flour has more than doubled since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began. And with wheat imports being blocked, supplies of essentials are running low.

We need to act fast. Before prices rise even further and even more people's lives are put at risk.

By donating in our church donation today OR by twinning your own fridge at home (information on the leaflets you can print, or order from <https://www.toilettwinning.org/group/churches>) we can help families in Ethiopia who don't know if they will survive this winter.

We can put the word of God into action, and be hope in the wilderness.