



Today's Message

Date: October 25, 2020
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Rejection, Mercy, and Judgment***

Text: Luke 9:51–56 (ESV)

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 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.

Introduction: Luke 9:51 marks a turning point in Luke’s account of the life and ministry of Jesus. His Galilean preaching tour ended and he began a months long journey southward to Jerusalem. The first step on this pathway brought Jesus face to face with conflict and rejection in Samaria. Jesus used the moment to continue his disciples’ spiritual training.

In this sermon we will rehearse the story told in the text and conclude with a principle that it reveals to each generation.

I. Jesus traveled to Jerusalem according to schedule. 51

- A. He traveled a path established in eternity.
- B. This path culminated in redemption and glory.

C. So, Jesus followed it with resolute determination.

II. On the way, Jesus encountered rejection in Samaria. 52-53

A. The villagers neither listened to his message . . .

B. nor extended to him hospitality . . .

C. because his destination was Jerusalem.

III. Even so, Jesus showed them mercy. 54-55

A. James and John called for immediate and just judgment to fall on the Samaritans. 54

B. But Jesus rebuked them, teaching them to be merciful as they follow him. 55

Ours is a message and ministry of mercy.

Today's take-home truth: The day of judgment is coming, but today is the day of mercy for all who "welcome" Jesus through faith."