

Jesus Graciously Delays the Fire of Judgment

Luke 9:51-56 ▪ Sunday, September 14, 2025 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

Jesus doesn't conform Himself to our _____ for a Savior.

Jesus is determined to provide salvation through _____.

God's _____ of judgment is an opportunity for grace.

Luke 9:51-56

^[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. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: Share about a time you felt a sense of injustice—either for yourself or someone you care about—and you wanted to see the situation made right.

Read & Discuss: Luke 9:51-56

1. Considering the historically deep-seated tension between Jews and Samaritans, why were James and John so riled up by the Samaritans' response (vv. 53-54)? What else, if anything, could have been motivating their response?
2. In what circumstances might we as believers get offended on Jesus' behalf? What helps us discern righteous anger from misplaced anger? If you were to advise James and John how to respond in a way that would cause them to not get rebuked by Jesus, what might you say?
3. What do you think Luke means when he says in verse 51, "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, [Jesus] set his face to go to Jerusalem"? What are you "setting your face toward" right now? As you consider your own goals or ambitions, how are they similar to or different from Jesus' purpose?
4. **Read 2 Kings 1:9-12.** This is likely the story that James and John were remembering as they walked with Jesus. Why is God's wrath toward the king's servants in 2 Kings so different from Jesus' response to the Samaritans in Luke? As followers of Jesus, what might help us understand how God's wrath or grace applies to any given situation?
5. Jesus' response in verse 55-56 was to rebuke the disciples. Afterward He simply "went on to another village." What does this action show us about Jesus' purpose? If you'd been rejected by a village, what might you feel—and how does Jesus' calm departure invite us to respond in similar situations?
6. **Read 2 Peter 3:9-10.** How should the truth that God is patient, "not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" shape the way we view and interact with people who have wronged us or who have not yet come to know Christ?
7. How should the sobering reality of the coming Day of the Lord (v. 10) impact how we approach our lives and our relationships with others? Describe a daily habit or conversation you'd change if you truly expected Christ's return soon?

Apply: "God's delay of judgment is an opportunity for grace." Who is one person that you can begin to pray for, asking that God's patience would lead them to repentance?

Pray: Ask God to open our eyes to see the opportunities before us to help others see and know the grace of God in Jesus.