

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

May 11, 2025

Fire from Heaven | Luke 9:51-56

Matt Kinniburgh

S U M M A R Y

This past weekend, we explored how Jesus took his disciples on the unexpected road to Jerusalem through Samaria. The Samaritans, known enemies of the Jews, rejected Jesus - prompting the disciples to seek violence against them by wanting to call down fire from heaven. But Jesus rebukes them, showing that his kingdom is not one of vengeance. We also reflected on how, later in Acts, one of these same disciples, John, would be filled with the Holy Spirit, who came as fire from heaven. As a result, he prayed for Holy Spirit to fill the Samaritan believers.

R E A D

Luke 9:51-56 | Luke 9:5 | Luke 6:27-28 | Acts 2:1-4 | Acts 8:14-17

Pause. Take time to prayerfully consider what has been read.

D I S C U S S

New Testament scholar Darrell Bock writes, "The journey starts with Jesus' expanding ministry into Samaritan territory. To Jews, this ethnic group were traitors, a collection of half-breeds. The name came from the capital of the separatist northern kingdom of Israel, Samaria, in a rule founded by Omri (1 Kings 16:21-24). The Samaritans intermarried with the pagan nations and were thus seen as unfaithful to the nation of Israel."

1. Who would be an equivalent to a Samaritan today?

2. We can assume that Jesus took the disciples through Samaria intentionally and not haphazardly, why do you think Jesus did this?

3. Jesus has given his disciples very specific instructions of what to do with their enemies and how to respond to rejection. Why do you think the disciples didn't practice Jesus' way here?

4. What comparisons can we make between John and James wanting to call down fire and passages in Acts?

5. How have you seen the Holy Spirit transforming you like he did with John between Luke and Acts?

R E S P O N D

One of the images of the Holy Spirit in Scripture is that of a refining fire that purifies us from sin and shapes us to become more like Jesus. Where do you need the Spirit's refining work in your life? Are there areas in your life where you are not allowing him room to work in your life? Consider sharing that with the group and confessing it to God, surrendering that space to him.

P R A Y

Pray for one another for a fresh filling of the Spirit. If you need language to do this, here is a simple prayer that you can pray:

"Spirit of the living God would you fall fresh on _____, and would you fill them with your power - growing your gifts in them, the love of the Father, and self-discipline - growing your fruit in them to transform them to be more like Jesus (2 Timothy 1:7)."



FULLNESS OF LIFE FOR EVERYONE, BY PRACTICING THE WAY OF JESUS TOGETHER