

## THE MASTER'S DOZEN

*(Transforming Believers into Disciples)*  
**Luke 9:1-10**

**Luke chapter 9 takes place at the end of the second year of Jesus' public ministry in Galilee.** Except for yearly trips south to Jerusalem for Passover (and ministry on the way), Jesus' primary ministry was in Galilee during this period. Galilee was more open to the informal, casual, personal ministry style of Jesus. That region was in constant contact with non-Jewish influences and lenient in application of the Old Testament laws of Judaism. It was a very appropriate place for the Lord to begin a flourishing, new way of knowing, worshiping and following God. Although His hometown, Nazareth, was particularly hostile (rejecting Him as Messiah twice / **4:16-30 & Mark 6:1-6**), He was mostly popular and well received in the northern regions of Israel. At the end of the two-year ministry and training of the 12 disciples, Jesus concluded this period with one final circuit of preaching and healing (expected of Messiah about to set up His kingdom) before moving the focus of His campaign south to Jerusalem and Judea. Luke 9 is the internship of His disciples in one last 'circuit campaign' of Galilee. This period was largely about training the 12 for ministry. Jesus never calls anyone to be a spectator – sooner or later He empowers and sends those He has called to believe and follow Him to be active participants in advancing the kingdom of God.

**Numbers** There used to be a television series called *Numbers*. It was a crime drama series that solved FBI cases by using various mathematic formulas to figure out likely suspects and prevent criminal activity. Of course it wasn't a perfect science, so it would probably fail in the real world. It would be great if the predictability of numbers could help prevent unpredictable criminal behavior.

**Numerology** is the study of what significance particular numbers have in theological understanding. It can become an unhealthy obsession to make God's truth far too cryptic, but it is a fact that some numbers in scripture do carry special meaning:

- 1** is the number of the only true and living God
- 3** is the number of unity and total perfection (the Triune Godhead, 3 days until the resurrection, etc.)
- 6** is the number of mankind (just short of God's fullness number, 7);
- 7** is a number of completion (creation week, years of the day of the Lord, sets of tribulation judgments, etc.)
- 10** the number of totality (the plagues of Egypt, pillars of the tabernacle, 10 commandments, etc.).

Larger numbers also carry patterns of significance:

**24** thrones in heaven , **40** years of wandering, **70** years of captivity.

The number that is very frequent in the NT gospels is **12**. In the secular world it is obviously organizational = 12 astronomical groupings of the heavens, 12 months in a year, 12 hours in each part of a day; etc. In scripture, 12 is the number of governmental or organizational authority – 12 tribes of Israel, 12 wells and other 12 things on the exodus from Egypt to Sinai, 12 items of the tabernacle, 12 stones of Joshua in the Jordan River, etc. In coming prophetic and eternal matters – 12 tribes of Israel are the 144,000 witnesses in the Tribulation period, 12 kinds of fruit for healing the nations during the Millennium, New Jerusalem will be 12,000 furlongs cubed having 12 gates with 12 pearls in 12 foundations. 12 is certainly a special number in God's Word, the Bible.

**'12' is a frequent number in Luke chapters 8 and 9.** Chapters 8 & 9 are transitional from the Galilean phase of Christ's ministry to Jerusalem and Judea. It is also a signal that the governmental and organizational authority of Jesus' new kingdom from Judaism to Christianity is taking place. The lady with the *flow of blood* that was *stopped* by Jesus may picture the coming end for the Old Testament sacrificial system of Judaism. Jesus calling the spirit into the 12 year old girl (the age of maturity for Jews / see **Luke 2:41-42**) and filling her with new life and vigor may be a picture of the coming era of the Church, Christ's bride. Jesus then sends the 12 disciples to represent Him and spread the gospel until they are called to return to Him (**9:10**). Even the feeding of the 5,000 is interesting in that there are 12 basketfuls of fresh leftovers for future nourishment of the disciples and those with whom they wish to share it – a possible picture of the 12 New Testament letters to Church Age Christians written by the apostle Paul. Read again Luke chapters 8 and 9 about preparing to be an effective disciple for the Lord Jesus Christ – it only takes about ... 12 minutes (of course!) ☺

**‘All The King’s Men’**  
***(Establishing & Spreading the Kingdom of God)***  
**Luke 9:1-11**

**Introduction:** Luke 8 concluded with two miracles of healing that concluded the second year of the public ministry of Jesus and His disciples. The picture of healing the lady with ‘blood problems’ and the young girl who had died graphically portray the ‘bigger picture’ of what Jesus was doing in Israel at the time. The **lady with the blood problem** pictures the ailing sacrificial system of Judaism. The blood of the sacrifices had flowed according to the Law of Moses, but the people were no better and getting worse. As the Lord’s power went out to the woman and stopped her bleeding, so Christ’s coming and sacrificial work on the cross put to an end the need for a sacrificial system of animal substitution. Jesus becomes the ultimate and final ‘blood sacrifice’ for all mankind and sends the Old Testament system away to ‘rest in peace’ (8:48).

**The restoring to life of the young girl** may be a picture of what was to follow Old Testament Judaism – new life from God in a fresh new spiritual ‘body’ (***Romans 12:4***) ‘the Church’. The girl was 12 years old – the age of maturity in Jewish culture (see ***Luke 2:41-42*** / Jesus at 12 in the temple). At age 12 a young girl was believed capable of giving birth, being a good wife and mother. Jesus raised the girl miraculously to life by calling her spirit into her after which she immediately got up walked with Him (***Mark 5:42***) and ate a meal from her parents. This miracle seems to picture the bringing to life of the Church at Pentecost following Jesus’ death, resurrection and return to heaven. At Pentecost (10 days after Jesus’ ascension), the Lord Jesus sent the Holy Spirit into the small group of followers in the upper room (***Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-3 & 2:32-33***). Immediately that day, like the young lady, the Church called the ‘bride of Christ’ (***John 3:29; Revelation 21:9, 22:17***) came alive with a spiritual appetite for scriptural nourishment and began ‘walking with the Lord’ to the amazement of the Jewish relatives who witnessed the miracle.

**The number ‘12’ connected to both women** seems to reveal the overlap transition period happening prior to Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and the coming of the Holy Spirit into the Church. Interestingly, the older lady had been sick as long as the young girl had been alive –both situations were going on simultaneously at the time just like the transition period which Jesus was in at the time (OT Law was fading away and NT grace was on the way). The old government of Mosaic Law was changing to the kingdom of God’s grace in Christ.

**Ambassadors of The King**

*“Then He (Jesus) **called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority** over all demons, and to cure diseases. **He sent them to preach the kingdom of God** and to heal the sick. And He said to them, “Take nothing for the journey, neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor money; and do not have two tunics apiece. ‘Whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them.’ So they departed and went through the towns, **preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.**”* **9:1-6**

**Adversaries of The King**

*“Now Herod the tetrarch **heard of all that was done by Him; and he was perplexed,** because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead and by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the old prophets had risen again. Herod said, “John I have beheaded, but Who is this of Whom I hear such things?” **So he sought to see Him.**”* **9:7-9**

**Accountability to The King**

*“And the apostles, when they had returned, **told Him all that they had done.** Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him, and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.”* **9:10-11**