

## The Journey: Luke 10-14

As Jesus begins this journey to Jerusalem, He goes through the towns and villages on His way to known death. He calls His companions and He calls us to a **deep inner journey**. From Chapter 10 until Chapter 19 we are with Jesus on this journey to the center of power. The external journey and its stages correlate with internal movements.

Jesus starts by sending out 72 disciples. Simple math makes it appear the twelve disciples are being asked to lead a group of six, and so become examples to others. Part of our journey is learning to begin to exercise **leadership**, no matter how limited, to reach out with the message of God and the Kingdom and to reach out with compassion.

The interior life has a series of movements that are a journey as well. These include many important things we must learn:

The primacy of love, and that all should be objects of our love and compassion.

How to listen deeply to Christ, and that God does hear our prayers.

God is more powerful than evil.

God requires transformation of our hearts.

The material is of so much less value than the spiritual.

Christ will return and justice will be done.

He offers mercy and yet judgment will come.

We need not fear the powerful.

We need not conform to rules.

We must be humble.

We must respond to God's call.

We must be willing to suffer.

These movements of our spiritual life require time and testing. **Loving, listening, praying, spiritual power, transformation, justice, mercy, courage, humility, obedience, and suffering**. None of these are easy or quickly learned. But God is gracious, and if we persist in journeying with Him, He will do this work in us.

All along this journey we are still engaged in offering compassion. We are still engaged as companions of Christ. He is still—amazingly—right beside us as we encounter opportunities to heal, opportunities to free from oppression, and opportunities to support life. No longer the Infant who shows us the unthreatening face of God, He is a man who shows us the kind, witty, and hard-working face of God. He shows us that He is with us in the ordinariness of life.

We must become pilgrims with “no place to lay our heads” because we understand that the spiritual journey is worth every sacrifice. We, too, head toward our known death with confidence that this is God's call to us.

## The Journey: Luke 10-14

### Chapter 10: Hospitality on the Journey

#### **10:1-24 Hospitality on the Journey for the servants**

*Jesus prepares seventy-two to heal and receive hospitality from those they serve.*

In today's world there are so many ways to get involved in service to others, in leadership for social change, and in transformed thinking. Christians who work with allies who share goals for the common good will find it is an easy context in which to share their faith, their love of neighbor, and to share that their underlying motivation for the work in loving God with their whole heart.

#### **Change the world tips - Practical ideas for civic action**

What is my issue? Think through what is an important social issue for you.

What can I do?

Pray and meditate

Volunteer your time in service and establish friendships with those affected

Inform yourself by reading, researching websites, talking to others

Use your citizenship through voting and writing to Representatives and other government officials

Be visible: wear a pin or T-shirt

Ask religious leaders to address the issue and engage in theological reflection

Boycotts and buycotts of selected companies in your purchases and investments

Invite known or knowledgeable speakers to groups you participate in

Join a local group committed to the issue

Join a national advocacy group

Establish a friendship with someone affected by the issue

Find a relevant film to screen for yourself and/or others

Create art work; engage in a community art project (visual, dramatic, written, musical)

Get on a listserv that will alert you to relevant legislation and faithfully send in your perspective to your legislators

Participate in community organizing efforts

Participate in marches, demonstrations, civil initiatives, civil disobedience

Write letters to influential people

Write letters to the editor or get the issue on print, radio or TV

Consider a long term volunteer commitment

#### **10:25-37 Hospitality on the Journey for those in need**

*Jesus teaches care and concern for all we meet.*

A homeless man lying on the street was passed by a pastor, then passed by a university professor, and was finally picked up kindly and taken to a shelter by a member of a radical Islamic sect. "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man in the street? . . . Go and do the same."

## The Journey: Luke 10-14

### 10:38-42 Hospitality on the Journey for Jesus

#### Jesus is hosted by Mary and Martha

Henry Ossawa Tanner

Artist, Christian, Impressionist

Born on the verge of civil war

American living in France

Paints the Red Cross in WWI

African American

Bill Cosby bought his painting of

An old man and young boy praying

My screensaver has an old man tenderly

Teaching a boy to play the banjo

Can you think of other paintings of men teaching children?

Flight into Egypt, the Annunciation,

The Good Shepherd, Wise and Foolish virgins

Jesus just gone from table at Emmaus

Jesus walking on the water

Angels singing to the shepherds

Mary teaching Jesus to read

Lazarus brought to life

A black man watches Lazarus rise

A symbol of liberation as his preacher father taught

Can you think of other impressionist painters of scripture themes?

I love Tanner.

I met him in a museum in Pittsburgh

A dark striking painting

A dark room, small flickering light

A woman standing

A shadow in the background

A woman listening with her heart

Jesus at the table of a friend

When asked to share that day my favorite painting,

I chose that.

Then I found a book

And sank deep into the wisdom

Of an artist who knew God,

Who knew suffering.

Thank you, Mary, for listening so intently.

Thank you, Henry, for looking so intently.

*Free Verse*



The Journey: Luke 10-14



Gazing at Christ: Meditations on the Gospel of Luke ~ Elaine Elliott



## The Journey: Luke 10-14

The Gospel of John tells the story of Mary and Martha's brother Lazarus who dies, and is raised by Jesus from the dead, and follows that story with Mary anointing Jesus.

Lord, let me be like Mary  
Who listened to You with her open heart  
And You defended and commended her  
For choosing life's one most important part.  
Lord, let me be like Mary  
Who You joined in weeping over death  
And who trusted that Your love and power  
Would once more give her brother back his breath.  
Lord let me be like Mary  
Who broke her alabaster jar so sweet  
And wiped the perfume with her very hair,  
Once more in worship sitting at Your feet.  
Lord, let me too, anoint the suffering,  
As to You my broken heart I bring.

*Sonnet*



Gazing at Christ: Meditations on the Gospel of Luke ~ Elaine Elliott

## The Journey: Luke 10-14

### Chapter 11: Hearts are joined on the Journey

#### 11:1-13      **Hearts are joined on the Journey in prayer**

*Jesus teaches how to pray.*

Please don't give up now.  
Keep asking, looking.  
God promised He will answer.  
There is always Hope.  
The impossible takes time.

*Tanka*

#### 11:14-28      **Hearts are joined on the Journey in discernment**

*Jesus explains that His battle is with Satan's kingdom.*

Sometimes we forget who the enemy really is  
Not our neighbor  
Not our political opponent  
Not our boss  
Not the media  
Not the schools  
Not another country  
Not international organizations  
Our enemy is a spiritual one who tempts us  
To despair  
To bitterness  
To anger  
To violence  
To self-indulgence  
To manipulation  
To greed

Keep us focused on the real battle.

*Free Verse*

## The Journey: Luke 10-14

**11:29-32**     **Hearts are joined on the Journey in hope**  
*Jesus predicts His resurrection.*

The crucifixion is throughout the Scriptures—

Isaac bound on an altar  
Joseph sold, put in prison  
Passover lamb's blood upon a door  
A serpent set up on a cross  
The tree cut to make the water sweet  
The sacrifices at the temple  
Israel taken into captivity  
Jonah swallowed by the whale.

The resurrection is throughout the Scriptures

Sarah's body able to bear  
Isaac released from his bonds  
Moses rescued from the water  
The Exodus from Egypt  
Joshua entering the Promised Land  
Daniel rescued from the lions  
Esther's plea for all the Jews  
Jonah set on land by the whale.

The ascension is throughout the Scriptures

Jacob's ladder up to heaven  
Joseph raised to be the king  
Moses on the mount of God  
Entering the holy place  
David made King of Israel  
Elijah caught up in a chariot of fire  
Israel returned to the land  
Jonah setting off to preach.

Christ died.

Christ has risen.

Christ ascended into heaven.

Christ our King.

*Free Verse*

## The Journey: Luke 10-14

**11:33-54**     **Hearts are joined on the Journey in motivation**  
*Jesus warns against religious hypocrisy.*

Leadership that says one thing and does another  
Is almost guaranteed to provoke my anger

How dare you talk about love  
    As a highest value  
    And then reject so many people?

How dare you set yourself up as  
    a model to emulate  
And then manipulate  
    And specialize in barbed remarks?

What I'm looking for from you  
    Is more honesty  
        transparency  
            humility  
    Perhaps even a little kindness.

But, meanwhile, don't be surprised  
    If I avoid you  
    Critique you  
    Pray for you.

*Free Verse*



## The Journey: Luke 10-14

### Chapter 12: Humility on the Journey

#### 12:1-12      **Humility on the Journey: Don't fear**

*We must remain loyal to Jesus, even under testing.*

I've seen Babylon  
And it's a nasty place  
Oh, not physically  
There are beautiful gardens  
And attractive halls.  
But as an environment,  
It's bitter and dangerous.  
The place is run by fear for ones' life  
And gossip and back-stabbing  
Daniel teaches the coping skills  
—prayer, dependence on God, insight, honesty, faithfulness  
I've known Pharisees  
And they're a nasty lot  
Picky about rules they invented  
Offering dire warnings if you should offend  
Basically worried about the bottom line  
Not about the people they're supposed to defend.

They kill the prophets  
They claim that Christ is King  
But, no, they can't pay a living wage  
Their lawyer needs to monitor discrimination lawsuits  
Excessive money for the top, but low level people need cutting  
The good image is for raising more money.

*Free Verse*

## The Journey: Luke 10-14

### 12:13-34      **Humility on the Journey: Don't fret**

*We must not overvalue material goods.*

Oreo cookie economics help me understand the world

If one Oreo equals \$10 billion

Our US GDP is 1175 Oreos

Federal budget is 240

Debt is 800

We said we'd give 7 Oreos to help with international poverty

But we're giving 1½.

In 1998 the UN told us it would only take 4 Oreos to

Alleviate extreme poverty in the world

Provide basic education for all

Provide water and sanitation for all

Provide basic health and nutrition

Instead we spent as follows:

Cigarettes in Europe – 5 Oreos

Alcohol in Europe – 10 Oreos

Drugs – 40 Oreos

And over one Oreo each on

Ice cream in Europe

Perfumes

Pet foods

Oreo military spending:

1⅓ total from our unfavorite nations:

Cuba, Iran, Libya, N. Korea, Syria, Sudan

5½ from China

6½ from Russia

40 from the US plus 20 more for Iraq and Afghanistan

Oreo cookie economics helps me understand the world

And I don't like what I see!

*Free Verse*

## The Journey: Luke 10-14

**12:35-59**     **Humility on the Journey: Don't faint**  
*We must be faithful until the kingdom comes.*

Jesus,

Let me be a warrior  
Sword-drawn  
Eyes alert  
Standing beside you

Jesus,

Let me fight war and deceit  
Poverty and hunger  
Sickness and death  
Ecological destruction

Jesus,

Give me your weapons  
Prayer, Patience, Scripture

*Free Verse*



## The Journey: Luke 10-14

### Chapter 13: Hope on the Journey

#### 13:1-9 **Hope on the Journey: Mercy**

*Jesus explains God's patience with the unrepentant through the metaphor of a tree not cut down.*

I know the tree at the center of the world  
And have sunk my roots deep into that place;  
Because in the center there is only One.  
And on the tree I can see his face.  
Whenever storms and terror, lightning flashes  
Strike off the leaves or gash in fiery fight,  
I find the fear released by knowing that  
The leaves spring back in morning light.  
One tree I knew was struck down, cut, lopped off,  
And grew a sapling from the deep base.  
The image tells my story as a branch,  
Rising from that central rooted place.  
Never will I fear again pain or death,  
For in each golden leaf I see life's breath!

*Sonnet*

#### 13:10-17 **Hope on the Journey: Restoration**

*Jesus tells of God's patience with the unrepentant, and heals a woman ill 18 years.*

My dad walks slowly—bent.  
He's 75 and the Multiple Sclerosis he's had for 25 years  
Has finally slowed him down.  
I'm thankful for nearly 25 years of grace.

The terrific walker that lets him get around,  
My mom's help to him for many practical things,  
A wheelchair so he could attend a graduation,  
New medicines to try.

*Free Verse*

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### 13:18-21    **Hope on the Journey: Growth**

*Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed that grows to a tree.*

I am fascinated with the shape of branches  
Looping, extending from the trunks planted  
Firmly in the ground. I love the birds  
That play in the leaves, taking seed  
From the fruit and making a new tree  
By flying far, far to a new garden.

Lying on the grass in my garden  
I look up to the spreading branches  
And purple blossoms of the jacaranda tree.  
Jacarandas have been planted  
Everywhere I've lived. They are a seed  
In my mind as though I'm a migrating bird.

I also love the hummingbirds  
When I glimpse them in my garden.  
They sip nectar, don't eat seed  
And rarely settle on the branches.  
But to attract them we have planted  
What to them must be a tree.

Once we visited the tallest tree  
I've ever seen. But no birds  
Nested there. No man had planted  
These ancient redwoods, but it's now a garden  
Preserved for us. We admired roots and branches  
And marveled at the smallness of the seed.

We had an apricot with a large seed  
And delicious fruit. The tree  
In our patio had the right sort of branches,  
But never seemed to attract the birds.  
Nevertheless, it sheltered the garden  
And I was grateful to whoever had it planted.



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All these remind me of a man who planted  
The very best kind of seed  
So purposefully in his garden.  
It grew tall and became a tree  
And a home for all the birds  
Who came and perched on its branches.

Christ, make us like a tree You've planted  
From Your seed. And may beautiful birds  
Find a home in our branches in Your garden.

*Sestina*

**13:22-30**     **Hope on the Journey: Judgment**  
*Jesus continues toward Jerusalem,  
warning that not all will enter the Kingdom.*

Jesus went through all the towns  
Teaching as He went.  
Pressing toward Jerusalem,  
Knowing what this meant.

Enemies still followed him  
Walking on the way.  
Hoping they could trap him,  
In something He would say.

Many were religious men,  
Filled with sinful pride.  
“Lord, will only few be saved?”  
One asked, and he replied.

“Heaven’s door is very narrow  
And many will want in.  
But it can lock with you outside,  
Left out in your sin.

“And all the prophets will be in  
But sadly you’ll be out,  
Because your pride prevented you,  
Or perhaps your doubt.”

*Ballad*

## The Journey: Luke 10-14

13:31-35

### Hope on the Journey: Mercy and Judgment

*Jesus grieves over Jerusalem, knowing of His impending death.*

In reaction to this thought  
Some enemies then said,  
“Get out of here to stay alive  
For Herod wants You dead!”

Jesus said, “You tell that fox  
That I have work to do.  
I’m going to Jerusalem  
To see this matter through.”

“I know that in that city fair  
I must meet My doom.  
How I’ve longed to comfort you  
But you’ll be left in gloom.”

“And you will never see Me then  
Until you come to say  
‘Happy is this one who comes  
In God’s name today.’”

*Ballad*

## The Journey: Luke 10-14

### Chapter 14: Happiness on the Journey

#### 14:1-6      **Happiness on the Journey: Invitation to wholeness** *Jesus healed on the Sabbath to the dismay of His critics.*

Whenever I want too much control, there are warning signs:

Pride, anger, fear, depression

When I give up control there is

Gratitude when my desire is granted

Patience when it's blocked

Hope when things are uncertain

Humility when there is failure

I have the choice to be a Pharisee

Sure I'm right

Angry to be crossed

Suspicious of what Jesus will do

Depressed that the way things should be is falling apart.

Or I can be the one suffering

Humble to move slowly through the world

Patient with discomfort and pain

Hopeful because Jesus is present

Grateful when He heals me

It's a daily choice between pride and joy!

*Free Verse*

#### 14:7-14      **Happiness on the Journey: Invitation to humility** *Jesus teaches deference to others by telling the story of a wedding.*

Every bride can be a sign of heaven,

Walking down the aisle to her groom,

Beautiful in white and pearl,

Each eye on her alone, in all the room.

In this bride, my friend, it's clear

All so separate is made one at last.

The mystery of marriage is for all of us.

This unity transfigures all the past.

As we celebrate the day at dinner,

Nieces, nephews all sit very near,

And all of us delight to see this truth:

Children are the honored guests it's clear.

Make me, Lord, a child then who is able

To sit and eat so near beside Your table.

*Sonnet*



## The Journey: Luke 10-14

### 14:15-24    **Happiness on the Journey: Invitation to celebration**

*A story of a wedding feast reminds us  
that not all invited to join the Kingdom will come.*

A certain man prepared one day  
A banquet for his friends  
When he was ready for his guests  
His servant then he sends.

“Please come,” the servant said to each,  
But each of them replied  
And offered their excuses then  
And the servant sighed.

Said one, “I bought a field and must  
Go on out that way.”  
Another said, “I’ve got to try  
New oxen out today.”

“I’ve just married,” said another,  
“Sorry I can’t go.”  
And when the servant told his master  
His rage began to grow.

“Quickly, go out to the streets  
And alley-ways of town.  
Get the poor and lame and blind,  
And get them to come down.”

“Sir, what you’ve ordered has been done.”  
The servant told him then.  
“We still have room.” So he replied  
“Go and try again.”

“These new guests will be my friends.  
And hear now what I say.  
None that were invited can  
Join my banquet day.”

The boss had planned a bash one day  
Inviting all the A-list  
And didn’t get RSVPs  
So wondered what he’d missed.

He had his secretary call  
Each person on the phone  
But their replies soon made it clear  
That he was on his own.

“Got a deal on real estate,  
You see how things then are.”  
“I’m traveling real soon you see,  
Just bought a hot new car.”

“I’m getting married and you know  
It’s costing fifty thou.  
So obviously I can’t be  
Going somewhere now.”

“Alright,” the boss said in a rage,  
“Invite the homeless here  
Since my lousy former friends  
Aren’t willing to appear.”

“Still too few,” the secretary said  
“Then make an open invite  
In papers county-wide,  
And make it bold and bright.”

“And don’t let any A-list people  
Crash the party here.  
They no longer are my friends—  
I have new friends, it’s clear.”

Come and join the banquet now  
And no excuses make.  
For God is calling each of us  
His food and joy to take!

*Ballad*

## The Journey: Luke 10-14

**14:25-35**     **Happiness on the Journey: Invitation to commitment**  
*We must count the cost of following Jesus on this journey.*

Rembrandt helps me see the apostles with new eyes  
These men are our heroes  
The leaders who forged the way for us  
Who didn't turn back from the dangerous journey  
    —Simon and Judas to Mesopotamia  
    —Bartholomew to Armenia  
They didn't turn back from pain  
    —Simon sawed in two  
    —Bartholomew skinned alive

Rembrandt painted them as wise old men,  
    The marks of suffering and experience on their faces  
He chose faces in his time  
    And poured in his own age and grief  
He had lost his wife  
    Lost his home  
        Lost his possessions  
            Cut raw by life  
But he hadn't lost his eye  
And he caught the apostles  
    After a long ministry  
        Before a painful death.

*Free Verse*