

Faith Calls for Unusual Choices
Luke 9:1 – 50

Conventional promotional techniques are not what God has in mind:

¹ Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. ² He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. ³ 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. ⁴ "Whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. ⁵ 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." ⁶ So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere... ¹⁰ 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.

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Conventional promotional techniques are not what God has in mind:

Parallels: Matthew 10:1 – 42, Mark 6:7 – 13

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Expecting the Impossible to Happen (11 – 17):

¹¹ 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. ¹² When the day began to wear away, the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding towns and country, and lodge and get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here." ¹³ But He said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people." ¹⁴ For there were about five thousand men. Then He said to His disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of fifty." ¹⁵ And they did so, and made them all sit down. ¹⁶ Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. ¹⁷ So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.

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Expecting the Impossible to Happen (11 – 17):

Parallels: Matthew 14:14 – 21, Mark 6:34 – 44, John 6:1 – 13

Example impossible promise: 2 Corinthians 9:8 – 11

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Seeing Bigger Promises (18 – 27):

¹⁸ And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" ¹⁹ So they answered and said, "John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again." ²⁰ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God." ²¹ And He strictly warned and commanded them to tell this to no one, ²² saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day." ²³ Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. ²⁵ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels. ²⁷ But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God."

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Seeing Bigger Promises (18 – 27):

Parallels: Matthew 16:13 – 16 and Mark 8:27 – 30

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Gentle with Shallow Responses (28 – 36):

²⁸Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. ³⁰And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, ³¹who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. ³³Then it happened as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" ³⁶When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.

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Gentle with Shallow Responses (28 – 36):

Parallels: Matthew 17:1 – 13, Mark 9:2 – 13

Cloud Events: Exodus 13:21 – 22, 19:9, 19:18, 24:16, 40:34 – 35, and 1 Kings 8:10 plus Matthew 3:17 when Jesus was baptized by John

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Revealing Hindrances to Faith (37 - 45)

³⁷Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him. ³⁸Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, "Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. ⁴⁰So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." ⁴²And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³And they were all amazed at the majesty of God. But while everyone marveled at all the things which Jesus did, He said to His disciples, ⁴⁴"Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men." ⁴⁵But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it, and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying.

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Revealing Hindrances to Faith (37 - 45)

Parallels: Matthew 17:14 – 20 and Mark 9:14 – 29

Demons now locked up: predicted in Zechariah 13:2, confirmed in 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6.

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Humility (46 – 50)

⁴⁶Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. ⁴⁷And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him, ⁴⁸and said to them, "Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great." ⁴⁹Now John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us." ⁵⁰But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side."

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Humility (46 – 50)

Parallels: Matthew 18:1 – 5 and Mark 9:33 – 40.