

Travel Narrative, part one: opening scenes and themes

9.51-56: A Samaritan village rejects Jesus and his disciples

THEME: Jesus is not like Elijah in using divine violence against opponents, and thus, neither should his disciples use violence.

9.57-62: Three excuses for refusing to follow Jesus immediately

THEME: Social obligations and personal comfort are not excuses for not following!

10.1-16: The Seventy are sent out to “harvest” disciples like lambs among wolves

THEME: Discipleship means accepting hospitality gratefully and accepting the refusal of hospitality with grace and witness, not violence, which is reserved for God “at the judgment.”

10.17-20: The Seventy return after a successful mission

THEME: It is not about the disciples’ own power/success, but about their doing God’s will.

10.21-24: Jesus celebrates God’s revelation to “the simple” rather than the “wise” and “intelligent”

THEME: Ordinary people, without formal Greco-Roman education (*paideia*), are more likely to “get” the message than the elite.