



STUDY GUIDE

SERMON TOPIC:
“No Silver Bullets”
WEEK 2

1. READ

Pastor’s Selected Scriptures: Luke 9 : 51 New King James Version (NKJV)

51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem

Luke 13 : 33 – 35 New King James Version (NKJV)

33 In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

34 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. 35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Further Reading: Isaiah 50: 4 – 7 New International Version (NIV)

4 The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.

He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

5 The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.

6 I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.

7 Because the Sovereign Lord helps me,
I will not be disgraced.

Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.

John 9 : 1 – 5 New King James Version (NKJV)

9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”



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2. REFLECT

[Click the image to view this week's sermon on YouTube!]



As we continue on our journey through Pastor Watley's sermon series entitled, "Forward" we are learning that although we may not know what is in front of us, God is still making a way for us to move Forward. While our path forward may not be easy, we can use the gospel as a guide to show us how to face our circumstances and walk confidently into our next season.

In our lesson for week two entitled "No Silver Bullets," Pastor Watley urges us to remember that some issues in life cannot be solved by a shortcut, hack, or trick. Unfortunately, there are many situations we face that do not provide us with an easy way out – we simply must endure them. However, in the midst of difficulty and suffering, we are able to learn from biblical examples that the God we serve has the power to get us *through*, even when we see no way *out*.

In our scripture for this week (Luke 9:51), we find Jesus on his way to face a difficult situation. As he makes his way from Galilee to Jerusalem, Jesus knows that each step towards Jerusalem is a step towards his crucifixion. And yet, even as he prepares to endure the unthinkable, his actions teach us how to boldly move forward. Verse 51 begins with a transitional phrase that marks a shift from prior events to a new period of time: "Now it came to pass." This phrase indicates that what is about to happen drastically differs from what has happened in the past. Likewise, it is important for us to recognize when we have "now it came to pass," moments in our own lives.



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These moments require us to drastically shift from our old seasons, into something new!

Thankfully, we do not have to face these shifts alone. As believers, the Word of God and the Spirit of God are always available for us to receive revelation about our next steps. Even if we have to be in the same place physically, financially, and vocationally, the revelation of God allows us to move to a new place spiritually, cognitively, and emotionally. God's revelation also provides us with a better understanding of our purpose. The next phrase in verse 51 reads, "when the time had come." This phrase is translated from the **Greek word *symplērousthai*** which refers to the fulfillment of God's plan. The time had come for Jesus to fulfill what God had designed him to do. It was time for him to fulfill his divine purpose.

However as Pastor Watley notes, in order for him to fulfill his purpose, he must have already received revelation and clarity about the nature of his purpose. For those of us who are still struggling to find our own purpose, here are four characteristics of our purpose that are important to remember:

- *Your purpose is always about something or someone greater than you.*
- *Your purpose must align itself with kingdom principles and practices.*
- *Your purpose is not a place where you arrive, it a process that you engage.*
- *Your purpose, if fulfilled, will outlive you.*

For Jesus, his purpose required him to face betrayal, suffering, and death. Even though those may not have been ideal circumstances, Jesus still "steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem." He counted the cost, knew the toll that it would take on him, and he went anyway. What will your purpose require of you? Many times there are parts of our purpose that will be difficult, uncomfortable, or require us to sacrifice. And yet, to live a non-sacrificial life, is to live a non-Christ-like life. As Pastor Watley mentioned, part of being a believer is to embrace the practice of sacrifice. However, we can take comfort in knowing that even in the most difficult seasons, God declares to us:

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." - 2 Corinthians 12:9

3. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- **What revelation have you received from God?**
- **What will your purpose require of you?**



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Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Jesus was so confident about going to Jerusalem, even though he knew what he would have to face when he got there?
- What are the actions of Jesus teaching us about moving forward into a new season?