

Dr. Daniel K. Darko, Gospel of Luke, Session 14, Transfiguration, Unclean Spirit (Lk. 9:28-50) Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Darko, Luke, Session 14, Transfiguration, Unclean Spirit (Lk. 9:28-50), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Daniel K. Darko's Session 14 lecture on Luke 9:28-50 explores the **significance of the Transfiguration** in confirming Jesus' identity as the Messiah, highlighting Luke's unique details like the emphasis on prayer and the discussion of Jesus' "exodus." The lecture then analyzes the subsequent **failure of the disciples to heal a boy with an unclean spirit**, contrasting Luke's account with Mark's and pointing out the disciples' lack of faith. Darko further examines the **disciples' negative reactions and ego** in their argument about greatness and their attempt to stop another exorcist. Ultimately, the session reflects on the **imperfections of the apostles** as a reminder for contemporary Christian leadership to embrace humility and follow Jesus' example.

**2. 21 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Darko, Luke, Session 14 – Double click icon to play in
Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL]
Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament →
Gospels → Luke).**



**Darko_Luke_Sessio
n14.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Darko, Luke, Session 14, Transfiguration, Unclean Spirit (Lk. 9:28-50)

Briefing Document: Luke 9:28-50 - Transfiguration and the Boy with an Unclean Spirit

Overview:

This session by Dr. Daniel K. Darko delves into Luke 9:28-50, focusing on the Transfiguration of Jesus and the subsequent healing of a boy with an unclean spirit. Dr. Darko highlights Luke's specific theological emphases in these accounts, particularly concerning Jesus' identity, the importance of prayer, the nature of the messianic mission, and the failings and ultimate potential of the disciples. He compares Luke's narrative with those in Matthew and Mark to underscore Luke's unique contributions.

Main Themes and Important Ideas/Facts:

1. The Evolving and Confirming Identity of Jesus:

- Dr. Darko emphasizes that the question of Jesus' identity is a central thread in Luke's Gospel, particularly in chapter 9. Following Herod's inquiry and the disciples' initial understanding of Jesus, Peter's declaration of Jesus as "the Messiah of God" is a pivotal moment.
- The Transfiguration serves as a divine confirmation of Jesus' identity. Dr. Darko notes that "here a voice from heaven, God himself, is going to set Jesus apart, and confirm that indeed he is the chosen one, he is the Messiah."
- Luke's version of the heavenly voice is distinct, stating, "this is my son, my chosen," unlike Matthew and Mark who use "beloved." Dr. Darko points out that the presence of Moses and Elijah alongside Jesus, followed by the divine declaration, reinforces Jesus as the chosen Messiah whom the disciples should "listen to."
- The Transfiguration clarifies Jesus' identity before his journey to Jerusalem, so "when they start unfolding in Jerusalem they should not be surprised" by the events to come.

2. Luke's Emphasis on Prayer:

- Dr. Darko highlights Luke's unique addition that Jesus and the disciples went "up on the mountain to pray" before the Transfiguration. He states, "For Luke, prayer is very important, and prayer precedes major things in ministry. Major events in ministry have their foundations in prayer."

- Luke explicitly mentions that the Transfiguration, including the appearance of Moses and Elijah, occurred "while he was praying." This is a key Lukan emphasis.

3. The Significance of Moses and Elijah's Conversation (The Exodus):

- Luke uniquely specifies that Moses and Elijah "spoke about the exodus and their departure which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem."
- Dr. Darko presents four interpretations of this "exodus":
- The passion week (death, resurrection, ascension).
- Jesus' death as a departure from the earth.
- Jesus' death as an act of salvation, leading God's people to eternity like Moses.
- The entire ministry of Jesus as an allusion to Moses.
- While Dr. Darko doesn't endorse one particular view, he suggests that it likely encompasses the journey to Jerusalem and the events that will occur there. He emphasizes that regardless of the specific interpretation, "Luke's point is that God made it clear to three witnesses that Jesus is the chosen one on the Mount of Transfiguration."

4. The Healing of the Boy with an Unclean Spirit and the Disciples' Failure:

- This incident follows the spiritual high of the Transfiguration, creating a stark contrast. Dr. Darko highlights the father's plea for his "only child," emphasizing the significance of a son in that culture.
- The disciples' inability to cast out the spirit is a point of concern. The father says, "I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not."
- Dr. Darko notes that this is one of the few times the disciples are explicitly said to have failed in healing, even after being given the mandate and experiencing the Transfiguration. This challenges any notion that spiritual highs automatically equate to consistent power in ministry.
- Jesus' response, "You unbelieving and perverse generation, how long shall I stay with you and put up with you?" suggests a lack of faith on the part of the disciples.
- Luke emphasizes that Jesus "rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father," leading to amazement at "the greatness of God."

- Dr. Darko contrasts Luke's account with Mark's, where the father expresses belief alongside unbelief ("I believe, help my unbelief") and Jesus states that "This kind can be driven out by anything but prayer (and fasting in some manuscripts)." Luke omits the fasting and focuses more on the direct rebuke of the spirit.

5. The Disciples' Negative Shadows and Lessons for Christian Leadership:

- Following the healing, Jesus explicitly tells the disciples about his impending suffering: "The son of man is about to be delivered into the hands of man." However, "they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them so that they might not perceive it."
- Immediately after this, the disciples argue about "which of them was the greatest." Dr. Darko finds this ironic and uses it to highlight their immaturity and misplaced priorities. "These are the guys who couldn't heal the boy... Now, an argument arose among them, and the argument was, which of them was the greatest?"
- Jesus uses a child as an example of true greatness, stating, "he who is least among you all is the one who is the greatest."
- Another incident involves John wanting to stop someone else from casting out demons in Jesus' name because "he does not follow with us." Jesus rebukes this exclusivity, saying, "do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you."
- Dr. Darko identifies these incidents as "negative shadows of the apostles" in their final days in Galilee, highlighting their:
 - Inability to heal but eagerness to stop others.
 - Obsession with greatness despite Jesus' talk of suffering.
 - Lack of faith when needed.
 - Tendency towards pride and perceiving ministry in their own terms.
- Despite these shortcomings, Dr. Darko reminds us that these same imperfect people will become the pillars of the early church, offering hope for growth and transformation.

Key Quotes:

- "here a voice from heaven, God himself, is going to set Jesus apart, and confirm that indeed he is the chosen one, he is the Messiah."
- "For Luke, prayer is very important, and prayer precedes major things in ministry. Major events in ministry have their foundations in prayer."
- "Moses and Elijah... spoke about the exodus and their departure which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem."
- "this is my son, my chosen." (Luke's version of the heavenly voice)
- "I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not." (The father's statement)
- "You unbelieving and perverse generation, how long shall I stay with you and put up with you?" (Jesus' response)
- "the son of man is about to be delivered into the hands of man." (Jesus predicting his suffering)
- "they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them so that they might not perceive it." (Luke on the disciples' lack of understanding)
- "he who is least among you all is the one who is the greatest." (Jesus' teaching on true greatness)
- "do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you." (Jesus' response to John's exclusiveness)

Conclusion:

Dr. Darko's session on Luke 9:28-50 provides a detailed analysis of these pivotal events, emphasizing Luke's unique theological contributions. The Transfiguration serves as a powerful affirmation of Jesus' messianic identity, underscored by prayer and the significant conversation about his "exodus." The subsequent failure of the disciples to heal the boy and their subsequent arguments reveal their human weaknesses and offer valuable lessons for Christian leadership regarding humility, faith, and the inclusive nature of God's work. Dr. Darko concludes with a hopeful note, reminding listeners that even flawed individuals can be used powerfully by God.

4. Study Guide: Darko, Luke, Session 14, Transfiguration, Unclean Spirit (Lk. 9:28-50)

Study Guide: Luke 9:28-50 - Transfiguration and the Boy with an Unclean Spirit

Key Themes

- **The Identity of Jesus:** The passage explores and confirms Jesus' identity as the Messiah and the Chosen Son of God.
- **Prayer as a Precursor to Divine Manifestation:** Luke highlights the importance of prayer, particularly in the context of the Transfiguration.
- **The Nature of the Messianic Mission:** The suffering and rejection awaiting Jesus in Jerusalem are foreshadowed, contrasting with expectations of a glorious Messiah.
- **Faith and the Disciples' Limitations:** The disciples' inability to heal the boy with the unclean spirit reveals their lack of faith and understanding.
- **True Greatness in Humility:** Jesus teaches that true greatness lies in humility and service, exemplified by welcoming a child.
- **Inclusivity in Ministry:** Jesus challenges the disciples' possessiveness over ministry, asserting that those not against him are for him.
- **The Human Frailty of the Disciples:** Luke portrays the disciples with their shortcomings – lack of understanding, pride, and possessiveness – highlighting their ordinary human nature.

Quiz

1. How does Luke's account of the Transfiguration differ from Matthew and Mark regarding the timing of the event?
2. What significant detail does Luke add to the description of the Transfiguration scene that emphasizes the importance of prayer?
3. Who are the two figures who appear and converse with Jesus during the Transfiguration, and what is the subject of their discussion according to Luke?
4. How does the voice from heaven identify Jesus in Luke's account of the Transfiguration, and how does this emphasize his unique status?

5. What two reasons does Dr. Darko suggest might explain the disciples' inability to cast out the unclean spirit from the boy?
6. How does the father of the boy with the unclean spirit address Jesus, and why does Dr. Darko highlight this detail?
7. What does Jesus say to his disciples immediately after the healing of the boy, and what is their reaction to this statement?
8. What argument arises among the disciples shortly after Jesus speaks about his impending suffering, and what lesson does Jesus teach them in response?
9. What incident involving another exorcist troubles John, and what is Jesus' response to John's concern?
10. According to Dr. Darko, what "negative shadows" of the apostles are revealed in the final days of Jesus' ministry in Galilee as depicted in this passage?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Luke states that the Transfiguration occurred "about eight days after these sayings," whereas Matthew and Mark both say "six days later." This slight difference in timing is a notable variation between the synoptic accounts.
2. Luke specifically mentions that Jesus and the disciples went up on the mountain "to pray," and the Transfiguration itself occurs "while he was praying." This Lukan emphasis underscores the connection between prayer and divine manifestation.
3. Moses and Elijah appear and talk with Jesus. According to Luke, they appeared in glory and spoke of his "exodus" or "departure," which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.
4. The voice from the cloud says, "This is my Son, my chosen." This designation emphasizes Jesus' unique status as the divinely selected Messiah, a nuance different from Matthew's "beloved" and Mark's "beloved."
5. Dr. Darko suggests two possibilities: the disciples may have failed in matters of faith, implying that greater belief could have led to healing. Additionally, he highlights that sometimes healing may not occur, and believers should trust God's will rather than forcing outcomes.
6. The father addresses Jesus as "Teacher." Dr. Darko highlights this because it reinforces Luke's portrayal of Jesus as a teacher who proclaims the Kingdom of God, emphasizing that his identity is not solely that of a miracle worker.

7. Jesus tells his disciples, "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men." Luke notes that the disciples did not understand this saying, as it was concealed from them, and they were afraid to ask him about it.
8. An argument arises among the disciples about which of them was the greatest. Jesus responds by taking a child, placing him by his side, and teaching them that true greatness lies in humility and receiving the least among them in his name.
9. John reports that they saw someone casting out demons in Jesus' name, and they tried to stop him because he was not part of their group. Jesus tells them not to stop him, stating, "for the one who is not against you is for you."
10. Dr. Darko identifies several "negative shadows": their inability to heal while being eager to stop others, their obsession with greatness despite Jesus' talk of suffering, and their lack of faith demonstrated by their failure to cast out the demon.

Essay Format Questions

1. Compare and contrast Luke's account of the Transfiguration with those in Matthew and Mark, focusing on the unique elements and emphases in Luke's narrative and how these contribute to his overall portrayal of Jesus' identity and mission.
2. Analyze the significance of prayer in Luke's Gospel, using the Transfiguration account (Luke 9:28-36) as a primary example. How does Luke connect prayer to key events and revelations in Jesus' ministry?
3. Discuss the portrayal of the disciples in Luke 9:28-50. How does their behavior and understanding (or lack thereof) in the Transfiguration and the incident of the boy with the unclean spirit reveal their human limitations and the challenges of following Jesus?
4. Explore the meaning and significance of the "exodus" that Moses and Elijah discuss with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, as presented in Luke 9:31 and interpreted by Dr. Darko. What different perspectives exist on this "departure," and how do they impact our understanding of Jesus' mission?
5. Examine Jesus' teachings on true greatness and inclusivity in ministry as presented in Luke 9:46-50. How do these teachings challenge the disciples' (and perhaps our own) understanding of power, authority, and the scope of God's work in the world?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Transfiguration:** The supernatural event where Jesus' appearance was radiantly changed, and he was seen in glory with Moses and Elijah. It served as a confirmation of his divine identity to Peter, James, and John.
- **Messiah:** The Hebrew term for the anointed one, expected to deliver and rule Israel. In the New Testament, it refers to Jesus Christ as the promised savior.
- **Son of Man:** A title Jesus frequently used to refer to himself, emphasizing both his humanity and his divine role as the eschatological judge and redeemer.
- **Exodus (in this context):** In Luke 9:31, it refers to Jesus' "departure" which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem. Scholars interpret this in various ways, including his death, resurrection, ascension, or the entirety of his salvific work.
- **Unclean Spirit:** In the cultural context of the time, this referred to a malevolent spiritual entity believed to cause physical and mental afflictions.
- **Convulsion:** A sudden, violent, irregular movement of a limb or the body, caused by involuntary contraction of muscles and associated with conditions like epilepsy or, in this context, demonic possession.
- **Spirit Cosmology:** The worldview prevalent in ancient times that attributed many events, including illnesses, to the influence and actions of spirits, both good and evil.
- **Divine Accreditation:** Official approval or endorsement from God. In the Transfiguration, the voice from heaven serves as divine accreditation of Jesus as the chosen Son.
- **Pericope:** A self-contained unit or passage of scripture that forms a coherent narrative or teaching.
- **Synoptic Gospels:** The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, which share a similar structure, content, and perspective on the life and ministry of Jesus.

5. FAQs on Darko, Luke, Session 14, Transfiguration, Unclean Spirit (Lk. 9:28-50), Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions on Luke 9:28-50

1. What is the significance of the Transfiguration account in Luke's Gospel, particularly in relation to Jesus' identity? In Luke's Gospel, the Transfiguration serves as a pivotal moment where God himself affirms Jesus' identity as the "chosen" one (Luke 9:35). Following Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah, the Transfiguration provides a divine validation witnessed by Peter, James, and John. The appearance of Moses and Elijah and the voice from heaven solidify Jesus' unique status and prepare the disciples (and Luke's readers) for his impending journey to Jerusalem and the events that will unfold there. Luke emphasizes this divine confirmation occurring in the context of prayer, highlighting its importance.

2. How does Luke's account of the Transfiguration differ from Matthew and Mark, and why are these differences important? Luke's account of the Transfiguration presents several unique elements. First, Luke mentions that the event occurs "about eight days after these sayings," differing slightly from Matthew and Mark's "six days later." Second, Luke specifically notes that Jesus and the disciples went up the mountain "to pray," emphasizing prayer as the context for this divine encounter. Third, Luke explicitly states that Moses and Elijah appeared as "two men," clarifying their tangible presence and distinguishing them from mere spiritual apparitions. Finally, God's voice declares, "This is my son, my chosen; listen to him!" which differs from Matthew's "my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" and Mark's "my beloved Son." These Lukan nuances underscore the importance of prayer in Jesus' ministry, the reality of the witnesses, and the clear divine endorsement of Jesus as the chosen Messiah to whom the disciples should listen.

3. What is the meaning of the "exodus" that Moses and Elijah discuss with Jesus during the Transfiguration, according to Dr. Darko? Dr. Darko outlines four main scholarly views on the "exodus" (Greek: *exodon*, often translated as "departure") that Moses and Elijah discussed with Jesus. These include: (1) the passion week (Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension), (2) Jesus' death as a departure from the earth, (3) Jesus' death as an act of salvation leading God's people to eternity (paralleling the Exodus from Egypt), and (4) Jesus' entire ministry as a symbolic exodus. Dr. Darko himself does not subscribe to one specific view, suggesting that it could encompass the entire journey from Galilee to Jerusalem and the events within Jerusalem. Regardless of the specific

interpretation, Luke's main point is that this conversation highlights the divine plan for Jesus' messianic mission, culminating in Jerusalem.

4. What does the incident of the boy with an unclean spirit reveal about the disciples and the nature of faith and healing, as discussed in the lecture? The account of the disciples' inability to heal the boy with an unclean spirit immediately following the Transfiguration highlights their limitations and a potential lack of faith. Dr. Darko points out the stark contrast between their recent spiritual high on the mountain and their failure in practical ministry. Jesus' response, "You unbelieving and perverse generation," suggests that their lack of faith hindered their ability to cast out the demon. However, Dr. Darko cautions against a formulaic understanding of healing, noting that while faith can be a factor, it is not always the sole determinant, and failure to heal should not lead to forced claims of healing. He also emphasizes Luke's focus on Jesus rebuking the spirit behind the symptoms and restoring the boy to his father.

5. How does Luke's portrayal of the disciples' reaction to Jesus' prediction of his suffering further develop the themes of the chapter? Despite witnessing the Transfiguration and hearing Jesus predict his suffering ("The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men"), Luke records that the disciples did not understand this saying and were afraid to ask him about it (Luke 9:44-45). This lack of comprehension, coupled with their subsequent argument about which of them was the greatest, reveals their preoccupation with earthly power and status rather than the true nature of Jesus' messianic mission, which involved suffering and sacrifice. This highlights the ongoing development of their understanding and their struggle to grasp the implications of Jesus' identity and his path.

6. What is the significance of Jesus using a child as an example when the disciples argue about who is the greatest? In response to the disciples' argument about their greatness, Jesus takes a child and states, "whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is the greatest" (Luke 9:47-48). In a culture that valued age and status, a child represented insignificance and dependence. By using a child as an example, Jesus reverses conventional notions of greatness, emphasizing humility, service, and receptivity as key characteristics of true leadership and discipleship in the Kingdom of God.

7. What does the incident involving the disciple stopping someone from casting out demons in Jesus' name reveal about the disciples' understanding of ministry? John's attempt to stop someone from casting out demons in Jesus' name because "he does not follow with us" reveals a narrow and possessive understanding of ministry among the disciples. They seemed to view ministry as exclusive to their group. Jesus' response, "Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you" (Luke 9:50), broadens the understanding of God's work and emphasizes that those who operate in Jesus' name and are not in opposition are, in effect, allies. This incident serves as a corrective to the disciples' potential for pride and exclusivity.

8. According to Dr. Darko, what "negative shadows" of the apostles are evident in these final days of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, and what is the purpose of highlighting them? Dr. Darko identifies several "negative shadows" of the apostles in Luke 9:28-50: their inability to heal the demon-possessed boy despite having authority, their eagerness to stop others from ministering in Jesus' name, their preoccupation with status and greatness while Jesus spoke of suffering, and their lack of understanding and fear regarding Jesus' impending death. The purpose of highlighting these shortcomings is to provide a realistic portrayal of the disciples as imperfect individuals who, despite their flaws, were chosen by Jesus and eventually became pillars of the early church. This serves as a reminder that even those called to significant ministry are susceptible to human weaknesses and that God can work through ordinary, flawed people. It also encourages humility and a focus on following Jesus' lead rather than pursuing personal ambition within ministry.