

The Sons of Thunder and the Son of Man  
Luke 9:51-56

*As Jesus sets out resolutely toward Jerusalem (v.51), He and His disciples experience first-hand...*

- I. A Hate-filled History
  - 1. Divided Kingdom
  - 2. Assyrian Resettlement
  - 3. Temples Destroyed and Desecrated
- II. A Hard Present
  - 1. Rejection at the Border
  - 2. Tempers Flaring
- III. A Hopeful Future
  - 1. Patience and Mercy
  - 2. Instruction and Rebuke
  - 3. Jesus is Undeterred

Taking It Home:

Mercy, as defined by Jesus in His words and actions, is love reaching down to meet the needs of others whether they deserve it or not. Note Jesus' patience and mercy toward the inhospitable Samaritans (and his hard-headed disciples, for that matter).

The intense hatred that existed between the Jews and the Samaritans cannot be over-stated. It had been fomenting for some 950 years. It takes divine mercy to cross these fortified borders and soften the hate-hardened hearts. While we are to despise sin and strive against wickedness, our efforts and attitudes must be colored by a long-suffering godly love for our neighbor (Mark 12:31) and a humble appreciation of the mercy shown to us through Jesus Christ (Luke 6:36).

*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. 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.*  
Isaiah 50:6-7