

Luke 9 pt 6 vs. 43-50

⁴³ And 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." ⁴⁵ But 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.

⁴⁶ Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. ⁴⁷ And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him, ⁴⁸ and 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." ⁴⁹ Now 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." ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side."

1. So far in the 9th chapter, Luke tells us of
 - a. Jesus sending out the 12 on a mission
 - b. He feeds 5 thousand
 - c. He asks the most important question: Who do men say that I am?
 - d. He tells of His death vs. 22
 - e. He explains that if anyone wants to follow Him, what it costs
 - f. He is transfigured on the mountain
 - g. He heals a boy who is demon possessed

I. In this portion, we'll take a look at Preparation, Posture

1. But before Jesus prepares His disciples with another reminder of His mission, vs. 43 said they were all amazed at the majesty of God.
 - a. Somehow, when Jesus healed the boy, the miracle glorified God and people were amazed at God's glory.
 - b. How did Jesus do miracles and bring glory to God?
 - c. **I believe it was the posture of His heart**
 - d. People will tend to look at what you are looking at

- i. If I'm looking at myself, the attention will be on me
 - ii. If I'm looking to God and living in a way to bring Him honor, the attention will be on God
- e. In anything we do in life, our jobs, ministry or hobbies, our challenge will be to focus on God

I. Preparation

1. Jesus will speak of His death 6 times in Luke
 - a. We've already seen it in vs. 22
 - b. Why is He repeating the lesson?
 - c. **Preparation:** He wants to prepare their hearts for the road ahead
 - i. They are about 6 months from the most trying time of their lives
 - ii. If they don't understand this point, they'll have a hard time
 - iii. He wants them to know that the Cross is God's plan
 - iv. When this happens, God is in control
 - v. No matter the difficulty, God is in control
 - vi. This was God's plan long before they were born
 1. The O.T is filled with examples of how atonement must be made
 2. They had many examples which are all pictures of the ultimate sacrifice
2. That Jesus is the fulfillment of John's message: Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
3. **He wants to get them ready**

4. **Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men,** but they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying
5. They don't understand what He's saying, so He'll say it again and again because He wants them to grasp this truth
 - a. That He is the sacrifice of their sins
6. They didn't get it & were afraid to ask Him
7. Perhaps because they had not captured his heart yet.
 - a. Jesus welcomes all questions.
 - b. He hasn't denied them any questions
8. As Jesus is saying let **these words sink down into your ears.**
 - a. It gives the impression that I have the option to allow certain thoughts down deep into my being
 - b. Let this sink down into your ears: That the Cross is The mission.
 - c. The fact that the elements are subject to Him
 - i. That He can calm the storm with a Word
 - ii. That He can multiply food from almost nothing
 - iii. That no disease is too big for Him
 - iv. That no demon is too strong for Him
 - v. Yet despite all of this glory and power, His focus is the Cross
 - vi. This is His mission
9. He came to save us by taking our place
10. That His purpose is not to be served but to serve and give His life as ransom for many
11. Maybe they were afraid to ask because He only spoke the truth and they didn't want this truth.

- a. How can the promised one, the recently confessed Messiah, possibly accomplish God's will and be rejected?
- b. They were not able to see it, not because hid it from them.
- c. They're most likely thinking: A leader must lead, he must be strong, have many followers and obviously be alive.
 - i. This death talk doesn't factor into the equation.
- d. They were not able to see because of their own preconceived ideas

12. **Preconceived ideas about salvation**

- a. This truth about God taking my place (Grace) is directly opposed to human pride & religion
- b. Pride & religion attempts to muster up enough to meet God's standards
- c. We feel the need to do something in order to be accepted
- d. **Eph 2** we're saved by Grace alone not works...

13. **Also preconceived ideas about how things should go**

- a. I often envision how the future should be and become disillusioned when things don't turn out that way

14. **Ex:** A person gets married and thinks, "this is going to be amazing, it's going to solve many of my problems and bring me joy"

- a. Only to realize that marriage is not about what I'm going to get, but how much I'll give

15. **Ex:** A couple has their first child and thinks, "this is going to be amazing, this baby is going to bring us so much joy"

- a. While that's true, it's much more than receiving joy. There is much hard work and effort in the process

16. **Ex:** A person gets called into ministry and thinks, "this is going to be amazing, God is going to use me in this way and in that way..."
 - a. Only to realize that along the way, it's much more than receiving a call. It's really all about others as you learn to capture the heart of God for people
17. So it's easy to understand why we become disillusioned
18. Jesus is trying to save them the heartache and telling them, trouble is ahead
19. Forget about your own plans and your own scripts
20. **He tells us the same thing**
 - a. **Luke 9:23** If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me
 - b. **John 16:33** "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
 - c. **John 15:4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.
21. Jesus wants to prepare us

II. Posture

1. As they missed this opportunity to ask Jesus and gain understanding, they begin to argue about who is the greatest.
 - a. Who should have the top position
 - b. Every group has a top position
 - c. It would be logical to think that this group also has a lead person
 - i. They are arguing about who is #1
 - ii. Maybe it was because there was envy of the 3 on the Mt.

- iii. Maybe it was the pride of the other 9 of failing to cast out the demon
 - iv. We learned that Jesus did not select the 3 because they were the strongest
 - v. We also saw that the 9 were not in prayer and didn't have the faith or power to help others
 - d. This gives us so much hope, that God is not giving up on us either
- 2. Regardless of their weakness or disputes, the root source to all of our internal problems can be traced back to:
 - a. Selfishness
 - b. Pride
 - i. Lust of the flesh – selfishness
 - ii. Lust of the eyes – selfishness
 - iii. Pride of life – wanting others to see something that isn't really there
- 3. Jesus clearly sees the problem of pride here and knows how to address it
- 4. He takes a seat which is the teaching position
 - a. And He brings in a little child to show them that being least is being greatest.
 - i. That the way up is down, the way to life is to die, the way to greatness is to be the least.
- 5. He takes up a small child in his arms and sets him before them
- 6. In Judaism, where children were held in more respect than in other ancient cultures, it still was often considered a waste of time to teach one under twelve the Torah.
- 7. In fact, *m. `Abot 3:10* reads, "Morning sleep, mid-day wine, chattering with children ..., destroy a man."
- 8. Jesus does not view children as insignificant.

9. Bringing the child to his side, Jesus says, "**Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me welcomes the one who sent Me. For he who is least among you all--he is the greatest.**"
10. Jesus' point is that everyone, even the lowest person on the social ladder, is important.
11. There are no elevated positions in the body of Christ
- 12. The posture of discipleship is humility before God**
13. Without identifying pride and embracing humility, we will not be able to enjoy an intimate life with God
14. From God's perspective, we are all the same
15. So we are to treat others with the utmost respect and honor
 - a. Receiving a child is like receiving God
 - b. God values each of us the same
16. It's amazing that Jesus takes the 12 at their level
17. This is good news because sometimes I get the sense that I need to be on another level to meet with God
18. He's showing them that there is a certain beauty and simplicity in being childlike
19. There is a big difference between being childlike and being childish
 - a. **Being childish**
 - i. **1 Cor 14:20** Brothers, stop being childish in your thinking. Be like infants with respect to evil, but think like adults.
 - ii. Being childish is being bratty, selfish and self centered
 - iii. When you think of being childish, you don't think of yourself first
 - iv. As I was grading papers, my childish attitude became clear

b. **Being child like**

i. **Mark 10:15** I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it

ii. Simplicity

iii. Complete reliance on another

1. When mom or dad say something, a child believes it

iv. Children are not good at deceiving

1. They don't do a very good job at fooling their parents.

2. When we are good at hiding ourselves and deceiving others, we aren't like Jesus (**Guzik**)

v. Being childlike is the attitude we're to have with God

20. It's clear that the disciples still don't understand

a. They want to stop someone from sharing in the ministry

b. They try to stop a man from performing exorcisms in Jesus' name, Jesus tells them they are wrong.

21. Here is a problem that we also share with them

a. That if others are not a part of the same group, worship the same way, then they must be wrong

22. Here Jesus is saying that those who are in Christ, using His power and doing kingdom work are part of the family

23. There is no room for divisions in the body of Christ

24. I'm thankful that God is raising up ministers who are gladly doing the work together