

LUKE 9:37-50

REVIEW...

- **THE GOSPEL OF LUKE...**
 - The focus of Luke is on the humanity of Jesus – showing Him as the perfect flawless man...
 - Key Verse - **Luke 19:10** - “**The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost.**”
- **LUKE 6:1- 7:17 - CHOOSING THE DISCIPLES / THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT / MAKING DISCIPLES...**
- **LUKE 7:18-8:56 - PREPARING THE DISCIPLES THROUGH EXAMPLE...**
- **LUKE 9:1-17 - SENDING OUT THE DISCIPLES...**
 - Sending out the 12 - to heal & preach / taking nothing with them / Making disciples...
 - The feeding of the 5000 - not about what we have - but who we give what we have to!
- **LUKE 9:18-36 - SENDING OUT THE DISCIPLES...**
 - At Caesarea Philippi Jesus asks His disciples – ‘Who do men say I Am?’
 - The real question – ‘Who do you say I am?’ – Peter answered – the Christ!
 - Peter knew who Jesus was (*by the Holy Spirit*) – but not why He had come...
 - From then on Jesus plainly told the disciples about the cross & resurrection...
 - Jesus was headed for the cross – to follow Jesus – means taking up our own cross...
 - Jesus took Peter, James, & John up to the top of Mt. Hermon and was transformed...
 - Jesus the Light of the world – calls us to be transformed and be a light as well

POINTING OTHERS TO JESUS... VS. 37-42 (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - WE ARE NOT THE SOLUTION... VS. 37-40**
 - Upon returning the next day from the top of Mt. Hermon...
 - A great multitude had gathered together - but there was one man who cried out...
 - An evil spirit would regularly seize his ‘only son’ - causing convulsions...
 - It took great effort to get the spirit to leave - leaving bruises on the boy...
 - The Father first brought him to the disciples - but they were unable to help the boy...
 - We know that they disciples had the power (*in Jesus name*) to cast out demons...
 - **Luke 10:17** – “**Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.**”
 - So why could they do nothing to help this boy...
 - The problem was they thought they were the answer...
 - Rather than bring the boy to Jesus – they tried to fix the problem themselves...
 - Notice it is not the disciples – but the Father – who brought the boy to Jesus...
 - **Our first response when we see a problem – is to try and be the solution...**
 - **But we are not the solution that people need...**
 - **And if we try and step in and try and help – on our own – not much happens...**
- **2ND - THE ONLY ANSWER... VS. 41-42**
 - Jesus answers – “**O faithless & perverse generation, how long shall I be with you...**”
 - Faithless – not that they did not have faith - but their faith was misplaced...
 - Perverse – (Perfect/Passive/Participle) to distort or twist...
 - The idea was that their faith was twisted – they trusted in themselves!

- Our problem is never a lack of faith – it was where our faith is placed
- I have seen extraordinary faith in ‘faith healers’ – but they have not power to heal...
- I have seen stubborn faith in money – but money disappears as quick as it comes...
- We all have faith – lots of it – our problem is we don’t always put our faith in Jesus
- Far too often we put our faith in our own abilities – or the abilities of others...
- And when they or we fail – then we blame God for not taking care of us...
- Yet we were not looking to God – we were looking to ourselves or others
- o ‘How long will I be with you – how long will I hold you up...’
 - The Lord had been with them so long and still they missed the simple answer...
 - ‘Bring your son here.’ (*Imperative*)
 - As He was coming over the demon violently threw the son to the ground convulsing...
 - Jesus rebuked the demon – and the boy was cured that very hour...
 - The only solution – that had always been the right answer – was Jesus!
 - The moment we have faith in the right answer – Jesus – there is hope...
 - No matter what problem we are facing – health, financial, relational...
 - If we have faith in anyone (*or thing*) else than Jesus we will be disappointed...
 - Only when we take our problem to the ONLY answer do we find the cure!
- **3RD - BILLBOARD FOR JESUS - MARK 9:28-29**
 - o The disciples came and asked Jesus privately...
 - They had their pride a wounded – and they did not want to make it public...
 - They asked, ‘Why could (*dunamis* - *to have power*) we not...’
 - They were not trusting in Jesus – they were trusting in themselves...
 - Worse than that – they were teaching others to look to the wrong answer...
 - o If people come to us looking for answers and help – it’s easy to be the answer...
 - If someone needs food/money/or counsel - we try to be Jesus...
 - And men would much rather look to someone they can touch and see...
 - Therefore they are much more inclined to trust in a man than God
 - The problem is we are limited – and can’t always help those who look to us
 - Maybe we can help them once – but when they come back - again and again...
 - We have limited abilities and resources – only God has limitless!
 - It is only when we point others to Jesus we really give them the answer
 - He has no limitations – all the abilities – all the resources – all the power!
 - He is the only answer that we need to give to those who are in need!
 - Our opportunity – responsibility – it to be a billboard that says, ‘this way to Jesus’!

WHO IS THE GREATEST... VS. 43-50 (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - LOOKING TOWARDS THE CROSS... VS. 43-45**
 - o While the crowds marveled at the power of God - what Jesus had done for the boy...
 - Jesus turned to the disciples and told them to listen carefully - pay attention...
 - ‘He would be betrayed into the hands of men’ - speaking of His death and resurrection
 - They disciples were upset by what Jesus was telling them – **Matthew 17:23**
 - Yet truth was hidden from them – they just could not grasp it – **Luke 9:45**

- They did not understand – ignorant (*Imperfect*) – and were afraid to ask...
- o For the 2nd time Jesus told them about the cross – but they missed it for 2 reasons...
 - 1st reason – the Disciples were expecting Jesus to set up His Kingdom here on earth...
 - If you're looking for a conquering King – talk of betrayal and death don't make sense
 - Yet Jesus had not come to conquer nations - He had come to conquer sin!
 - Often we miss God's work in our lives – cause we are looking for something else
 - Looking for God to provide a job – we miss the friend He brings to hear about Jesus
 - Or looking for God to heal – we miss the grace He wants to give in the suffering
 - II Corinthians 12:9 – “My grace is enough, My strength made perfect in weakness.”
 - Rather than coming to God with expectations – we need to come with an open heart
 - 2nd reason – the disciples were ignorant because they were too prideful to stop and ask
 - When we do not understand what God is doing in our lives – we should stop and ask
 - When your children don't understand something – you want them to come to you
 - God isn't disappointed when we ask questions – He loves to give His kids answers
- 2ND - THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM... VS. 46-50
 - o An argument came up among the disciples...
 - Because they were still expecting Jesus to set Himself up as King of the whole world...
 - They all expected to be rulers / important people in Jesus' new Kingdom...
 - What they were arguing is which one of them would be the 'Greatest' in that Kingdom
 - Rather than it being all about Jesus – they were still focusing on themselves...
 - We cannot look at two things at once – we cannot serve Jesus and ourselves...
 - If we are focusing on ourselves - then we are not looking to Jesus...
 - If we are not looking to Jesus – it makes it very challenging to follow Jesus
 - o Jesus knew what they were arguing about - knowing what was in their hearts...
 - So Jesus sat down – and taught the disciples about who is the 'Greatest'...
 - I would love to have seen the surprise on the disciples face – how did Jesus know
 - Often I think we get the idea we can hide our conversation and actions from Jesus
 - He knows – there is nothing we say, do, or even think that God is not aware of
 - Have you ever been at a Bible Study – and it feels like the teaching is just for you
 - You wonder does the pastor know – who told him what I am going through...
 - Jesus knows – and He has a way of sitting us down so we can hear the truth...
 - Jesus picked up a little child into His arms...
 - Jesus uses the child to show the disciples an example of true 'Greatness'...
 - o A little child has no ambition – they have no grand designs for power or authority
 - o They are content with roof over their head, food on the table, and a loving family
 - o If we desire to be the 'Greatest' in God's Kingdom – we need to be like kids!
 - o Not in the sense that we are immature – but simple in trust and faith...
 - o Little kids never question if there is going to be food – or clothes...
 - o They have perfect trust in their parents to take care of their needs
 - o They also do not seek to be the greatest – they are content to just be kids!
 - o We also should have that simple faith in our Father to take care of our needs...
 - o Not seeking the world's 'Greatness' – but be simple and content to be God's kids!
 - Whoever receives one of these little children – in My name – receive Me...

- o And the one who receives Jesus – also receives the Father who sent Jesus
- o The little children's Jesus is talking about – are those who believe in Him...
- o **Galatians 3:26** – “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”
- o Anyone who receive His kids (*little children*) – also receive Jesus
- o When we take the time to encourage and bless others...
- o When we point others to Jesus - we are in truth ministering to and blessing Jesus!

▪ The least will be the greatest...

- In the world – those who are ‘the Greatest’ - have all the authority – often abuse it
 - o Greatness in the world is like a pyramid – with the most powerful on top
 - o It is the picture of the boss – ‘the Greatest’ holds absolute control over others
- In stark contrast the world – Jesus says – to be ‘the Greatest’ be the least of all!
 - o To be ‘Greatest’ in God’s Kingdom – you must be a servant (*deacon*)
 - o Deacon – ministering to the practical needs of others (**Acts 6** – *Steven, Phillip*)
 - o We don’t relate a servant with ‘Greatness’ – we still have the World’s perspective
 - o Greatness to us is riches / power / influence / having others who serve us
 - o Not the person who empties the trash / cleans / he is just a servant!
 - o We would call that person ‘nothing special’ – but God calls them the ‘Greatest’
 - o The question is do we want to be ‘Great’ in the world’s eyes or God’s
- The Greatest of all – is Jesus Christ...
 - o **Mark 10:45** - “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
 - o He had every right to be served – He was God almighty!
 - o But instead He came to serve – and to give His life as a ransom for many...
 - o Jesus gave us the example of Godly greatness – to give you life for others!

● **3RD - MISSING THE POINT... VS. 49-50**

- o John answered (*Jesus did not ask a question*) – perhaps trying to change the subject...
 - How many times when we have been reproved – and tried to change the topic...
 - Dad or mom is scolding us for something we did – ‘what’s for dinner?’
 - John had seen someone casting out demons in Jesus’ name...
 - But they forbid him because he was not one of THE ‘disciples’...
 - I love the patience Jesus has – He takes the time to answer John’s interruption...
- o Do not forbid him...
 - The one who does a work in Jesus name – cannot also speak evil of Him...
 - Whoever is not against us – is also on our side...
 - People in the world love to divide - they have their groups / barkada...
 - In the world it is all about who is your family / town / county...
 - Men have fight and kill each other just because they are rival sports teams...
 - When we divide in the church - over denomination - we are acting like the world...
 - But it should not be the same in the church - we are to be united by love!
 - **John 13:35** - “All will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - The church of God is not a building - it is not a particular denomination...
 - There is only one church of God - we are all part of the Body of Christ...
 - No matter what name - no matter what our traditions - we are all part of God’s church!