

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“WHERE FOLLOWING JESUS LEADS”

For individual study or group discussion

Leaving the book of *Deuteronomy*, we return to our studies in the *Gospel of Luke* this fall. Recollecting that Jesus quoted from the book of *Deuteronomy* more than any other book in the Old Testament, hopefully our examination of *Deuteronomy* has led to a deeper understanding concerning the nature of the old covenant and how its promises point to the person and work of Christ in the new covenant.

In Luke 9:46-62, the Kingdom of God continues to unfold during Christ's earthly ministry. Today we see his disciples learn that *faithfully following Jesus will lead to a proper understanding of greatness resulting in humble service (vv. 46-50), a merciful spirit toward those who oppose Jesus (vv. 51-56), and an unwavering allegiance in spite of discomforts and distractions (vv. 57-62)*. The advancement of the Kingdom of God progresses not as a triumphant march, but as a humble following where Jesus leads.

A proper understanding of greatness resulting in humble service (vv. 46-50)

Earlier in *Chapter 9*, the disciples witness the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 (vv. 10-17), as well as Christ's transfiguration. After this, Jesus solemnly predicts his death (vv. 21-22 and 43b-45) as “he set his face to go to Jerusalem” (v. 51). The disciples show every sign of selective hearing, because soon after Christ's somber revelation regarding his death, they begin to argue amongst themselves about who will be the greatest in the Kingdom of God. Jesus offers a corrective rebuke as he places a child before them. Subsequently, they presume wrongly again when they complain to Jesus that someone outside their group drove out demons in his name. Jesus again offers a corrective rebuke pointing to their petty conceit that would bring division to the work of the Gospel.

- Why do you think Jesus places before them a child? William Barclay writes that a child has little or no concern for “personal ambition, personal prestige, personal publicity, or personal profit.”¹ Read Psalm 131. Explain how the psalmist's description helps you better understand what Christ is teaching.
- Read Mark 10:42-45, Philippians 2:3-4, and 1 Corinthians 15:9-10. What do these verses teach about the essence of true greatness?
- Read Peter's report to the church in Acts 11:1-18. Note verse 17 where he states, “If then God gave them the same gift...who was I that I could stand in the way?” Explain how Peter grew in his understanding of who can faithfully follow Jesus.

A merciful spirit toward those who oppose Jesus (vv. 51-56)

The disciples' learning curve continues in verses 51-56 as they become enraged against the inhospitable Samaritans. In their zeal to defend the honor of their Lord, they remember Elijah, when he calls down fire from heaven on the hostile servants of the Samaritan King Ahaziah (2 Kings 1:1-18). But the disciples' zeal shows a rash lack of compassion. J.C. Ryle writes, “It is possible to have much zeal for Christ, and yet to exhibit it in the most unholy and unchristian ways...It is possible to fancy that we have Scripture on our side, and to support our conduct by scriptural quotations, and yet to commit serious errors. It is as clear as daylight, from this and other cases related in the Bible, that it is not enough to be zealous and well-meaning. Very grave faults are frequently committed with good intentions. From no quarter perhaps has the Church received so much injury as from ignorant but well-meaning men.”²

- Explain how Jesus turned the disciples' understanding of mercy upside down? (cf. John 4:9 and Acts 10:28)

An unwavering allegiance in spite of discomforts and distractions (vv. 57-62)

The final section of our passage brings to mind an earlier reading in Luke about the *Parable of the Soils*. Jesus reminds his listeners again of the cost of discipleship—they must be willing to forsake all to follow him (23-27; 57-62).

- Revisit Luke 8:4-15. Which soil do these men in Luke 9:57-62 represent? Explain how it is impossible to serve Christ with a divided heart.

DATE: September 11, 2022

SPEAKER: Brian/Frank

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 9:46-62

Family Dinner Table

When Christ calls us to imitate children, he is emphasizing to us the objective reality of a child's dependence on others for survival. When Jesus calls us to follow him, he has already shown us the way to humility: “Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped...He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:6-8).

In *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis paints a vivid picture for his readers of what one should expect to find when they come across a truly humble follower of Christ:

“Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call ‘humble’ nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him, it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.”³

- Read Mark 10:42-45. As a family, discuss how becoming like a child is essential to following Christ.
- Read Romans 12:3, Philippians 2:3, and Ephesians 4:32. List ways one can learn to cultivate a humble heart.
- What can you do this week to learn humility?

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Adult and Teen Challenge,
denominational partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Ruth and Pete Mitchell, *supported missionary partners, lead a church planting team with MTW in France.*

¹Barclay, William. *Barclay's Daily Study Bible*. StudyLight.com. <https://www.studydrive.net/commentaries/eng/dsb/matthew-18.html>. September 06, 2022.

²Ryle, J.C. *The Gospel of Luke*. Preceptaustin.org. <https://www.preceptaustin.org/j-c-ryle-gospel-of-luke-commentary>. September 06, 2022.

³Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*, Book 3, Chapter 8, “The Great Sin” NY NY, 1952. HarperOne Publishers. 128