

# **“Jesus and the Disciples”**

## **Luke 9:37-50**

Pastor John Miller

### **I. Introduction**

- A. God knows how to balance our lives
  - 1. Our test takes us from the Mountain of Glory to the Valley of Darkness (contrast)
  - 2. We can't stay on the mountain. We must learn to grow as we go through the valleys as well.
  - 3. Luke brings together four short incidents that reveal some areas the disciples needed to grow in

### **II. They Needed to Grow in Faith (Luke 9:37-43a)**

- A. A distraught father (vv. 38-39)
  - 1. Takes his son to disciples, and they did not help
- B. A desperate, dark world (v. 39)
  - 1. Satan's grip on young people
- C. A defeated church (v. 40)
  - 1. “They could not...” (v. 40)
  - 2. Prayer and fasting (v. 41)
  - 3. (Mark 9)
- D. A divine solution (vv. 41-43a)
  - 1. A picture of what Jesus came to do
  - 2. He came from glory to the dark world of sin to set us free
  - 3. Do you need to grow in your faith?

### **III. They Needed to Grow in Understanding (Luke 9:43b-45)**

- A. Why did they not understand?
  - 1. They were self-absorbed (v. 46)
  - 2. They had just seen the Lord's glory on the mountain and His power in the valley. They had simply lapsed back into thinking of the Messiah as a popular hero.
    - a) Let the Scripture shape your thinking, not the views of the day or your experience
    - b) Do you need to grow in understanding of the things of God? True wisdom and understanding come from the Bible, God's Word.
    - c) “Let the Word of Christ dwell...” (Colossians 3:16)
    - d) Illustration- (Romans 12)

### **IV. They Needed to Grow in Humility (Luke 9:46-48)**

- A. Their argument was appalling (v. 46)
  - 1. How could this happen?
  - 2. In light of God's grace to them, they began to think they were special
    - a) This is also a danger for us
- B. Jesus gives an object lesson (vv. 47-48)

1. *“Though loved and cherished, a child was the smallest and most powerless individual in the Hebrew culture.”* – R. Kent Hughes
2. Jesus set a child next to Himself (two opposite figures)
  - a) The great person is one who shows kindness to the lowly
3. Do you lack humility?
4. Do you have contact with the little people of our society?

## **V. They Needed to Grow in Tolerance** (Luke 9:49-50)

- A. This incident seems to illustrate the behavior Jesus just told the disciples to avoid
- B. Jesus forbade sectarianism
  1. Unity
  2. Liberty
  3. Love
  4. Illustration- Joshua and Moses (Numbers 11)
  5. Illustration- Paul in prison (Philippians 1)
  6. Illustration- John the Baptist

## **VI. Conclusion**

- A. Are you growing in faith?
- B. Are you growing in understanding?
  1. Word of God
  2. (Romans 12)
- C. Are you growing in humility?
  1. Peter
- D. Are you tolerant?
  1. Love