

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

"Who is the Greatest?"

Luke 9:46-62 (NKJV); Who Is the Greatest?

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."

Jesus Forbids Sectarianism

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."

A Samaritan Village Rejects the Savior

⁵¹ Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, ⁵² and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. ⁵³ But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"

⁵⁵ But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. ⁵⁶ For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save *them*." And they went to another village.

The Cost of Discipleship

⁵⁷ Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go."

⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head."

⁵⁹ Then He said to another, "Follow Me."

But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

⁶¹ And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house."

⁶² But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Introductory truths:

- ✓ **Jesus never rebuked the disciples' desire to be _____** (v. 46-48).
- ✓ **Jesus rebuked the disciples' _____ to greatness** (v. 46-48).
 - The disciples were entangled with the worldly way of being great.

What is the worldly way of being great?

- For people to know your name
- To be healthy & wealthy
- To be famous in the world's eyes

What is God's way of being great?

- To know and be known by God
- To live righteously and walk in wisdom
- To be famous in my Father's eyes

Key Wisdom Principle: Pride is using my strengths to build up myself (money, status, platform, personal recognition, etc.)

Humility is using my strengths to build up others for the glory of God and the growth of His Kingdom.

Who is the Greatest in the Kingdom of God?

1. Those who are _____ are great (v. 48-50).

- What does it look like to be humble? It looks like a little child.

5 things we can learn from children:

- T _____
- W _____ to ask for help.
- L _____
- S _____
- F _____

Matthew 18:1-5: ¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²Then Jesus called a *little child* to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and *become as little children*, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Therefore whoever *humbles himself* as this little child is the *greatest* in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

Mark 9:39-41: ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. ⁴⁰For he who is not against us is on our side. ⁴¹For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

→In essentials **UNITY**, in non-essentials **LIBERTY**, in all things **LOVE**.

2. Those who desire to see the lost _____ are great (v. 51-56).

Scripture Insight: Samaritan village ... did not welcome him. Rome ruled both Jews and Samaritans, but the groups mostly hated each other, each circulating stories of the other's atrocities. Samaritans believed in the one God of Israel and claimed to be true heirs of his promises. Samaritans rejected the history of Israel after Joshua, and changed the Ten Commandments to include the requirement to worship

on Mount Gerizim. Judeans had destroyed the Samaritan temple on Mount Gerizim; Samaritans likewise hated Jerusalem's temple and often heckled Galilean pilgrims who passed through Samaria on their way to the festival, sometimes even causing bloodshed. See the article "Samaria and Samaritans."¹

3. Those who _____ and live for the _____ and His Kingdom are great (v. 57-62).

Sermon in a Sentence: The pathway to greatness is thinking MORE about Jesus and others and LESS about ourselves.



Action Steps:

- 1) *Keep your eyes on the King and your purpose in expansion of His Kingdom.*
- 2) *Don't think less of yourself, think of yourself less.*
- 3) *Observe a little child this week and learn what it means to be fully dependent upon your Heavenly Father.*

Make a decision this week? Please let us know on your Connection Card.

Preview for next Sunday: It's Harvesting Time! Luke 10:1-12.

¹ Quote from NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible.