

Compelling Portrait Part 7: Letting Go of Greatness

Objective: To challenge us to rest in the grace of Jesus even as we offer it to others.

Read together:

“Master,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us.”

50 “Do not stop him,” Jesus said, “for whoever is not against you is for you.”

51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; 53 but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. 54 When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” 55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them. 56 Then he and his disciples went to another village.

Luke 9:49-56

- Why do you think John wanted to stop others from doing miracles in the name of Jesus? Why do you think Jesus was OK with what they were doing?
- Jesus didn't seem bothered that the Samaritan villagers rejected him. Why do you think that was?
- When others do something hurtful to you, is your response more like Jesus or more like the Sons of Thunder?
- How do you respond to those who have different theological perspectives than you? What if those theological differences are wrong based on your understanding of the Bible?

The definition of 'grace' is: *The free and unmerited favor of God.*

- Why do we struggle so much with believing that God's favor towards us is free and unmerited?
- Have you ever tried to earn God's grace? How?
- How does our understanding of God's grace to us impact the grace we offer to others?

Final Thought: We want to narrow down the grace of God so that its only for us and people like us. We forget that his grace is wider than we expect.

This Week: Identify who you need to offer grace to because grace of Jesus has been offered to you.

