

Luke 9 Pt 5

Magnify the LORD

- **Luke 9 so far Jesus...**

1. **Equipped/Sent** Apostles
2. **Fed** the 5000
3. **Asked:** Who do men say I AM
4. **Instructed:** Deny self/Take Cross/Follow Me
5. **Transfigured/Shown like lightning**
6. **Healed** the man's only son...

Luke 9:43 And they were all amazed at the majesty of God. But while everyone marveled at all the things which Jesus did, He said to His disciples, 44 "Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is **about to be betrayed into the hands of men.**"

VII. Who is the Greatest?

46 Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them **would be greatest.**

- **Jesus Declaration** I am going to die soon
- **Disciples Conversation** Who will be next in line/greatest

Our flesh screams out to be noticed/To be seen as great in the eyes of men

- Notoriety/Reputation/Wealth/Status...

Ecclesiastes 4:4 ...I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is **envied by his neighbor**. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Striving to be seen as great by others? Vanity Fleeting as Wind

- **Which one of us will be the 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.**"

Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me/My Father
IOWs Welcome those who have *no means of profiting you*

- **Receive:** gr. *dekh'-om-ahee* lit. take with the hand, make friends with

He who helps make the least great will be the greatest in God's eyes
That's what Jesus did for us...

Psalms 18:32 It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect. 33 He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places. 34 He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, **Your gentleness has made me great.**

Paraphrase: You stoop down to make me great in Your eyes

- Jesus their example of greatness: E.g., Taking man's demon possessed son by hand
- **Still had a worldly view of greatness?**

Matthew 20:25b... "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, **let him be your servant.** 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, **let him be your slave—** 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**

Welcome those who have no means to benefit you/Feed our egos

Luke 6:33 ...if you do good to those who do good to you, **what credit is that to you?** For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.

Don't do what you do for man to acknowledge. Know God sees

Matthew 6:2 ... when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 3 But when you do a charitable deed, **do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,** 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your **Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.**

We are God's Secret Service **motivated by...**

- **Desire:** Please God. Make Him smile
- **Hope:** Those who see us doing good would **glorify God**

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and **glorify your Father in heaven.**

Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me/My Father

Matthew 25:40b ... 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, **you did it to Me.**

- **Worldly View of Greatness:** Admiration from other sinful men. Temporal.
- **Godly View of Greatness...**

Those who help the those who can't help them...will be the greatest in God's eyes
That's what Jesus did for us...

If, after Christ's death for us on the cross, and after he has given up everything for us, and has washed us in his hearts blood, if we begin to want to be great and famous in the eyes of men, **what wretches we are!** May God deliver us from all ambition, from every kind of self-seeking, and from any measure of pride! Otherwise, we are inconsistent in pretending to follow such a Master as the Lord Jesus. [Spurgeon]

... he who is least among you will be great

- **John quickly changes the subject...Look it!**

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."

Beginning of Denominationalism

They don't do things exactly like we do...We told them to stop

- **Apostle John:** Gospel of John, 1,2,3 John and Revelation
 1. Apostle of Love
 2. Staunch proponent of Deity of Jesus
 3. **Staunch opponent of false doctrines/teachings**

We saw someone casting out demons in Your Name
We told him to stop because he does not follow us

50 But Jesus said to him, "**Do not forbid him**, for he who is not against us is on our side."

Mark 9:39 ... "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me."

- **Don't Fight over nonessentials:** God will reveal the truth

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for **God is able to make him stand.**

- **There is a time to fight...**

1. **Deity of Jesus**
2. Salvation by Grace alone though faith alone in Christ alone
3. Virgin Birth/Six Day Creation/Inerrancy of Scripture
4. Trinity/Isms/False Religions/Woman as pastors
5. Rapture of the Church/Eternal Judgment

**If this guy's not stumbling/preventing people from coming to Me...
Let him alone/Do not stop him...I'm not done with him**

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...**

Next 15 chapters deal with the last weeks of Jesus life
Set His face like flint to Jerusalem...Place of His death

52 ...and [Jesus] 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.**

Messengers sent to cities ahead of Jesus...Samaria does not welcome Him

- **Samaritans**

1. **Known as half-breeds:** Assyrian/Jewish mix
2. **Hatred between Samaritans/Jews:** Prejudice/Religions practice

Did not receive Him ...**because** His face was set for Jerusalem

John 4:20 [Samaritan woman] Our fathers worshiped on this mountain [Gerizim], and you **Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place** where one ought to worship.

- **Spitefully did not welcome Him...**

He used to be welcomed in Samaria; but now the evil [religious] spirit has come to the front again: They did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem, and **they wished nobody to go up** to the feast at Jerusalem but desired all to stop and worship God with them on Mount Gerizim. **So they would not receive him.** [Spurgeon]

- **Unwelcome:** He was a Jew going 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?**"

Since we are kind'a friends now w/Elijah and...
He called fire down on people...What do you think?

- **Fact:** Elijah called down fire **on the sacrifice not people**/but it sounded good
- **James/John:** Anger issues. Jesus gave them a nickname...

Mark 3:17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name ... **"Sons of Thunder"**

- **Brothers:** Zealous to move up religious ladder
- **Mother:** Overbearing Stage mom...

Matthew 20:20 [Immediately after Jesus speaks of His coming suffering/death] Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to [Jesus] with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 21 And He said to her, **"What do you wish?"** She said to Him, **"Grant that these two sons of mine** may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." 22 But Jesus answered and said, **"You do not know what you ask.** Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, **"We are able."** 23 So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father."

Mom's Request? Two boys to be on Jesus right/left in His kingdom

- **There were 2** on Jesus' right/left when He entered the Kingdom
 1. One with Jesus forever: Surrendered his life to the King gained Eternal Life
 2. Another separated from Jesus forever. Held on to his life /lost it eternally

Can you drink the cup I'm about to drink?
IOWs Do you really know what you're asking?

- **James/John** *would* follow Jesus by suffering for the Gospel
 1. **John boiled** in oil...lived
 2. **James beheaded** w/sword. First martyr of Apostles

Let's call down fire on Samaria?

55 But [Jesus] 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.

**Jesus did not come the first time to call down fire on people
Allowed His Father to call down fire on Him**

John 3:16 [John the Apostle of Love got it later] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For **God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world**, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Jesus did not come the first time to call fire down on people
Next time He will

- **So much more to teach...so little time**

VIII. More on the Cost of Discipleship

- vv 23-26 **Cost of Discipleship**: Deny yourself, carry your cross and follow Me

After the calling down fire comment...
Obvious boys need more instruction on **what it really means to follow Jesus...**

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

- **On His way to Jerusalem** Nailed to piece of wood/Hung in the air left to die
- **Still competing for greatest** Opportunity opens up after James/John rebuked.

**Somebody yells for all to hear
Lord I will follow Your 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.**"

- Are you willing to **give up your comfort to follow Jesus?**

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.**"

- **Bury my father:** lit. When my father dies/Receive inheritance **Ill follow**
- Are you willing to **give up your agenda to follow Jesus?**

Jesus must be first priority in our lives. He is worthy of and demands first and best
The man was caught between a struggle between **right and right**. It was a good thing to hang around for his father, but it wasn't the best thing, and service of the second best at the expense of the first best can result in ruin. [Guzik]

Even a good thing is a bad thing when God said do the other thing. [NJC]

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."

- Are your willing to **give up your sentiments to follow Jesus**

If you go home now when it's easy what will you do when it gets hard?

Jeremiah 12:5 If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then **how can you contend with horses?** And if in the land of peace, In which you trusted, they wearied you, Then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?

- Common in all excuses? **Lord let me...**

We die to self to live unto God
Forsake the Kingdom of Self to enter the Kingdom of God

- Die to Our Agenda
- Die to Our Pride/Arrogance
- Die to Our Rights
- Die to Selfishness/Self-will...**Live for Jesus**

Jesus does not ask us to do anything He has not already done

There are two kinds of courage-the courage of moment, which requires no previous thought, and a "planned" courage, which sees the difficulty ahead and steadfastly marches towards it. Jesus had this kind of courage; He could see the cross in the horizon, but still steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem. [Guzik]

- Count the cost/know what's coming and **follow anyway** because we know its right

No one having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God
Leave Old/Follow New/Never look back

- Leave Sin ...for Righteousness
- Leave Selfishness ...for Selflessness
- Leave Discouragers ...for Encouragers
- Leave Confusion ...for a Sound Mind

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| ▪ Leave Perversion | ...for Purity |
| ▪ Leave Hatred | ...for Love |
| ▪ Leave Fear | ...for Courage |
| ▪ Leave Confinement | ...for Freedom |
| ▪ Leave Bitterness | ...for Forgiveness |
| ▪ Leave Pride | ...for Humility |
| ▪ Leave Anger | ...for Peace |
| ▪ Leave Foolishness | ...for Wisdom all found in following Jesus |

Nothing to Lose...Everything to Gain

Philippians 3:7 ...what things were gain to me; these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 12b...** I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. **13b...**one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and **reaching forward** to those things which are ahead, 14 **I press toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.