



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Luke, Part 32: The Morons Who Follow Jesus - Luke 9:37-50 - June 29, 2025

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - When Christians are **obstacles** between unbelievers and Jesus - see: **Luke 17:2**
Often, Christians are their own worst enemy - making common, yet moronic, mistakes.
Luke's abbreviated approach in this section (v. Matt. & Mark) reveals that the details of the individual stories are sacrificed in order to showcase *the repeated failures of the disciples*.

The Morons Who Follow Jesus Have:

A. A Lack of Faith (Luke 9:37-42)

Illustration: **Raphael's Transfiguration** - light and dark. Glory and the demonic.

Jesus had given his disciples the power and authority to cast out demons back in **Luke 9:1**.

Now, he comes down the mountain to find that "*they could not*" (v. 40)

Jesus seems to be frustrated and exasperated (v. 41) wondering how long it will take for his guys to finally get it. He calls them "*faithless*"

In the synoptics, when the disciples ask why they were unable, Matthew's gospel chalks it up to **a lack of faith** (Matt. 17:20), while Mark says it is **a lack of prayer**. (Mk. 9:29)

Prayerlessness is a major indicator of a lack of faith - yet, we cannot attempt to accomplish the things of God without the power of God.

B. A Lack of Focus (Luke 9:43-45)

There isn't a lack of attention on the miracles - people are "**astonished**" and "**marveling**" (v. 43)

Yet, when Jesus says that his purpose goes beyond the miraculous all the way to the cross (v. 44), the disciples totally miss it again. (v. 45)

The gospel centers on the death of Jesus Christ (see: **1 Tim. 1:15, 1 Jn. 3:8, Rom. 3:26**)

An improper focus on **astonishing marvels**, will conceal the gospel from us.

There is nothing that deserves greater focus than the gospel message of Christ crucified (See: **1 Cor. 2:2, 15:3; Galatians 6:14**)

The most moronic thing you can do while following Jesus is to lose focus on Jesus.

C. A Lack of Unity (Luke 9:49-50)

Illustration: **tattle-telling** in my house, and the rule of the first word.

Irony: the disciples are upset with someone else casting out demons, when they have had a hard time doing exactly that themselves.

Jesus is not talking about non-negotiable doctrines - there is a difference between being "with" and "against" - but, as long someone is a Christian and not opposed to the orthodox, biblical, historical faith, then we ought to be **charitable** in differences of approach.

It's good to acknowledge when we really are on **the same team** - infighting amongst Christians surely is an obstacle to others coming to faith.

D. A Lack of Humility (Luke 9:46-48)

This one is the root of the other three. **Pride** causes us to lack faith, focus, and unity. Those all become secondary when we have it all figured it out on our own.

It is really shocking to see the disciples are considering this particular question in the middle of a section that showcases their failures - but **lack of self-awareness** plagues all of us morons.

Jesus points out a child and shows us the remedy for idiocy: "**he who is least among you all is the one who is great.**" (v. 48)

The Immanuel Mantra:

1. I'm a complete idiot. 2. My future is incredibly bright. 3. Anyone can get in on this.

How long will Jesus bear with us?

As long as it takes.



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Does your approach to following Jesus make following Jesus attractive to non-Christians?
2. Do you ever find yourself trying to do the things of God without the power of God?
3. Do the peripheral blessings of Christianity ever begin to obscure the gospel message at the heart of Christianity for you?
4. How much charity do you allow to Christians who practice their faith differently than you?
5. How can pride lead us to being morons who follow Jesus?
6. What are some guardrails from the sermon to keep from veering into the problems that were highlighted from Luke 9?