

## Greatness Luke 9:46-56

**Luke 9:43-48:** But while everyone marveled at all the things which Jesus did, He said to His disciples, "Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men." But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying. Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him, 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."

How do we live in the middle, between the childlike desire to do something that matters, and the warped desire for power, control, money, and fame?

**James 3:13-16:** Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy (jealousy) and selfish ambition (self-seeking) in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such

"wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

**Envy** (Jealousy): *coveting someone else's story.*

What would it look like for you to let go of that thing you're chasing this morning?

**Selfish ambition** (self-seeking): Put your needs and wants ahead of others.

Luke 9:48: 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' way: suffering and self-sacrifice

The disciple's way: desire for personal greatness, envy and selfish ambition

The only thing worse than a child trying to be an adult is an adult acting like a child! - **Warren Wiersbe**

**Luke 9:49-50:** 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." But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side."

**Sanctification** means to be set apart for special use or purpose, that is, to be made holy.

**Luke 9:51-56:** 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, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. 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?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives BUT to save them." And they went to another village.

**Luke 9:56:** The Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives BUT to save them.

- The disciples **LACKED LOVE** for each other.
- They **LACKED LOVE** for believers outside their group.
- They **LACKED LOVE** for their enemies.

- Where am I lacking Christ's love for others?
- Is a root of bitterness and jealousy keeping me from fully loving others?
- Do I pray for others that are hard for me to love?