

Luke 9:37-62

³⁷ And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him. ³⁸ And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child. ³⁹ And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him. ⁴⁰ And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not. ⁴¹ And Jesus answering said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither. ⁴² And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.


⁴³ And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God. But while they wondered every one at all things which Jesus did, he said unto his disciples, ⁴⁴ Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men. ⁴⁵ But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.

⁴⁶ Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest. ⁴⁷ And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him, ⁴⁸ And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.

⁴⁹ And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us. ⁵⁰ And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.

⁵¹ And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, ⁵² And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. ⁵³ And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? ⁵⁵ But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. ⁵⁶ For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

⁵⁷ And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. ⁵⁸ And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. ⁵⁹ And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. ⁶⁰ Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. ⁶¹ And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. ⁶² And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.



After the transfiguration of Jesus on the mount He comes down with His disciples to again be pressed by the crowd. We read of another parent desperate for someone to help his son who has become possessed of an unclean spirit. This, and the previous accounts, certainly does raise questions like: How does someone get an unclean spirit? Does this happen nowadays? Is it possible that anyone could have a devil take control? These biblical accounts are certainly true but the main thing for us to take from this is that there are ungodly influences in our lives and that what we watch, listen to, dwell on, and involve ourselves in impacts our thinking and our habits. **1Co 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.**

Jesus' disciples tried to cast out the unclean spirit but could not despite the fact that Jesus gave them power and authority to do so. Admittedly, sometimes I am weak in my faith and forget that we are operating under the power and authority of God, if living according to his will. Faith, in God alone, is so critical to living the victorious Christian life. Of which the apostle Paul is a prime example. Faith is how we got saved and it is how we can live a life that pleases God, giving us peace and joy. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

As the people stood amazed at Christ's power He tells them that he would be delivered into the hands of men. This makes sense to us that read it today but to the hearer's on that day the meaning was hid from them. No one even questioned Him about it, instead they remarkably start debating who will be the greatest. Sounds quite selfish doesn't it, so in line with our fleshly nature. Jesus then takes a child to illustrate a truth that what some may consider a small, insignificant child can be just as important, and even more so, than the disciples that asked the question. I'm certain that the disciples eventually learned that the Son of the Most High was the lowest of servants and The Greatest in the Kingdom of God.

We also read of the other lessons that the disciples learned when they...

1. Wanted Jesus to forbid the one man casting out demons, that wasn't part of their group (vs 49-50)
2. They wanted Jesus to destroy the village that didn't receive them. (vs 51-56)
3. It not's a life of luxury and the time to serve is now (vs 57-62)

On the first point Jesus explains that "he that is not against us is for us". Thankfully God has others working for Him and to do His good will. We're not aware of all the works of God or His servants.

On point 2 it really sounds quite harsh on the part of James and John to suggest such a thing but apparently Elias had in OT times. There is a stark contrast between the two Testament

periods. We should be thankful for being in the latter even though God's mercy is shown in both and desires men to be saved.

Note: Because of James and John's suggestion they are referred to as 'the Sons of Thunder'.

Lastly on point 3, Jesus explains that those following Him won't be living in luxury, His kingdom doesn't involve palaces and riches; at least not yet. In the life hereafter though, we have more than this world could ever offer.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And... the time to serve is now. If you think about it, we really do spend a great deal of time on petty things that won't matter much in the end. Let us spend time visiting the widows and fatherless. Lead others to Christ and helping them grow. Let's choose that good part like Mary did and spend time with Jesus. (Luke 10:38-41). After all, we're going to have eternity.



As always I hope you enjoyed the lesson, may God bless you and your families. Please feel free to share it with others.