

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 23

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Lesson 23 On the Way to Jerusalem

Background:

After the Transfiguration of Jesus, the tone of the gospel begins to change. He is on the road to Jerusalem for the final time. Jesus knows that His time is short, and He begins to focus intently on what lies ahead for Him, and for His disciples. Jesus challenges them to a deeper commitment.

Scripture Passage

Read: [Luke 9:43-62](#)

Observation Question: Where does Jesus say He is going, and what is going to happen?

Quote:

"The question of the kingdom was now uppermost in the minds of the Twelve because of the events that had transpired just previously. A disagreement arose among them as to which of them should have the preeminent position in the kingdom that they expected Christ to establish." [Dwight Pentecost: The Words and Works of Christ p. 264](#)

Question:

What were the events that had "transpired just previously?" What is the kingdom?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [Luke 9:43-62](#)

Jesus's Statement About the Son of Man

1. What did Jesus say was going to happen to the Son of Man? Who is the Son of Man?
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2. Did the disciples understand what Jesus was saying? Why do you think they could not understand? What can we do when we don't understand what the Bible is teaching us?

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Who is the Greatest?

3. What did the disciples begin to argue about? Does this seem strange to you?

4. Which of the following statements are true?

- A. Whoever gives birth to a child receives Jesus.
- B. Children are the least important.
- C. Whoever receives a child in the name of Jesus receives Jesus.
- D. Jesus said that the strongest, wealthiest, smartest person is the greatest.

5. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach the disciples by using a child as an example?

Casting out Demons

6. Why do you think that John said to Jesus that he tried to prevent someone else from casting out demons? Was Jesus worried about this? How did He respond.

7. Which of the following emotions do you think best describes how the disciples were probably feeling?

Jealousy, surprise, shame, joy, delight, awkward, anger, fear

On the Road to Jerusalem

8. Why do you think that Jesus was determined to go to Jerusalem if He knew He was going to be put to death? What is a natural human reaction when we are facing death?

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9. Jesus sent messengers ahead to ask the Samaritans to prepare for His arrival. What did the Samaritans do? Do you think the Samaritans should have done? Does the same kind of thing happen today?

10. What did James and John want to do? How did Jesus respond? What does it tell you about Jesus' attitude? How should Christians respond to people from other cultures?

Following Jesus

11. Someone wanted to follow Jesus. Does Jesus' answer surprise you? Why? In verse 59 Jesus commands someone to follow Him. What is the man's excuse? Do you think He has a good excuse? What makes following Jesus easy?

12. A third person wants to follow Jesus in verse 61 but first he wants to say goodbye to his family. Jesus seems to give a harsh answer to the man. What do you think Jesus meant?

Discuss:

What makes following Jesus easy? What makes it difficult? Is it worth it to follow Jesus?

Suggested Prayer: *Dear Lord, help us to be deeply committed to following Jesus. Prevent us from thinking of discipleship as something we do when we feel like it. Strengthen us in our faith and keep us humble. Let us remember that the way to greatness is by having a childlike spirit. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.*

For Further Reading:

[Jesus' Final Journey to Jerusalem](#)

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