

Sermon: Pride: Who's the greatest?
Series: Luke: The Good News for Everyone.

Scripture: Luke 9:37-50
Date: October 13, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Proverbs 16:18 says that pride goes before destruction. Why does God hate our pride so much that he would even let it destroy us? Consider also Pr. 6:16-17; James 4:6; 1 John 2:16.

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Read Galatians 5:26. Apply this verse to the disciples in this passage. In what ways are they conceited (empty of glory), provoking others, or envying others? What about you? Does pride (conceit) tend to demonstrate itself in your life as provoking others (superiority) or envying others (inferiority)?

b) V. 46. Is there any area of your life where you are asking, "Who is the greatest?" in order to self-promote? How does listening to the gospel and applying it to your heart help to remove these thoughts? Think about how the cross proves that we are both wicked and loved.

c) V. 40-41. The disciples went from an amazing mission where they cast out demons, to not being able to cast out this one specific demon. Have you ever had an experience like this – from spiritual highs to spiritual lows? Have you ever felt like you've hit a wall spiritually?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Read v. 44-45. Jesus tries to talk about his suffering and death again, but the disciples struggle greatly with this idea. They didn't want a suffering messiah. They wanted a crossless gospel. Which of these crossless gospels that we talked about are you most susceptible to? Therapy gospel, Social gospel, Mystic gospel, Self-effort gospel, Grace without holiness gospel?

APPLICATION

a) Brainstorm together how you might need to come off the mountain top and enter into the messiness of life with others. How can you purposefully serve and welcome those who might be considered "lesser" than you (like a child V.47-48). How can you keep it in mind that when you are serving others you are serving Jesus himself?

b) Is there anyone that you need to apologize to or reconcile with due to your pride?

PRAYER

- Thank God for loving us enough to hate our pride.
- Confess ways that your pride has made you divisive, competitive, or controlling.
- Thank Jesus for the humiliation of the cross that cures us of our pride.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to come down from the mountain and enter into life with others, even their messiness.