

Luke 9:37-48: Jesus Superior than Everything!

God's kingdom does have 'rank'; but obtaining 'rank' comes about not through pomp and circumstance, but through love and humility. In today's lesson, we observe:

- A. Jesus is greater than **unbelief** ...
- B. Jesus shows His greatness in His **death** ...
- C. A child can be greater than the greatest **disciple** ...

Study Questions

1. What might be the picture Luke is trying to portray by showing that Jesus and the disciples descend the mountain to continue their work? (Luke 9:37)
2. Luke's account of the demon possessed and epileptic boy is different than Matthew and Mark (Luke 9:37-42; Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29). Why would some gospel writers keep some details in and leave others out?
3. Why might the disciples not have understood Jesus's teachings that He was going to be crucified? (Luke 9:45)
4. What picture is Jesus giving His disciples about the 'greatest in the kingdom' when He places a child right next to Him? (Luke 9:47)

Luke 9: Jesus Heals a Boy from a demon

Luk 9:37 And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him.

Luk 9:38 And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child.

Luk 9:39 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.

Luk 9:40 And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not.

Luk 9:41 And Jesus answering said, **○ faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither.**

Luk 9:42 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.

V. 37 - Notice, a day has passed; it does not imply the transfiguration happened at night, just that the next item that occurred was Jesus delivering a boy from evil. **1. What might be the picture Luke is trying to portray by showing that Jesus and the disciples descends the mountain to continue their work? [glories of God's kingdom, mundane world below perhaps.**

V. 38 - In Matthew's rendition, we get an even fuller picture. **Matthew 17:14-16**. Notice, a multitude of people have gathered at the base of the mountain or Luke says "much people met him." Matthew says "multitude". They waited for the preacher! How rare! Yet, someone else cried out to him. Matthew says the gentleman kneeled down before Jesus. The man said his son was a 'lunatick' in Matthew; but this is skipped here. **The child is his only child. Some translations says epileptic.**

V. 39 - Apparently, a demon created the symptoms of the child. It does not mean all who have epilepsy (seizures, etc.) have demons. Luke *gives a lot of details*, Sir Physician! The boy cries out, the spirit tears him, he foams at the mouth, and the demon bruises him terribly. Apparently these can all be mistaken for symptoms of epilepsy.

V. 40 - Remember they had been given power over devils and authority over diseases; but apparently this one was extremely difficult. Matthew tells us after Jesus performed the miracle, the disciples asked why they couldn't do it and Jesus said "Howbeit this kind goeth out but by prayer and fasting", **Matthew 17:21**

V. 41 - Luke does mention that Jesus was disappointed in a lack of faith on part of the father. However, Luke **minors** on it where as Matthew and Mark recount the conversation of the importance of faith with the disciples. Therefore, Luke is trying to emphasize Jesus' power more than the lack of faith of the disciples or father. This is not because Luke is mistaken, but wants to emphasize Jesus' identity and power for his readers. **Also compare to Deuteronomy 32:20**

The lesson: Jesus is Messiah; He overcomes devils and difficult cases that others cannot overcome.

2. Luke's account of the demon possessed and epileptic boy is different than Matthew and Mark (Luke 9:37-42; Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29). Why would some gospel writers keep some details in and leave others out?

Jesus fortells death

Luk 9:43 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,

Luk 9:44 *Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.*

Luk 9:45 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.

Who is the Greatest?

Luk 9:46 Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest.

Luk 9:47 And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him,

Luk 9:48 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.*

v.43 - Back to Jesus fortelling His death. There now is a sudden contrast between God's mighty power and amazement of the people and Jesus forth telling his death. He who casts out demons on behalf of humanity will soon be nailed to a cross by humanity. **More explicitly now**, Jesus shows us that people are not going to accept Him apart from miracles.

Jesus continues his teachings about His death. In Luke, Jesus teaches about his death in Luke 9:22, Luke 18:31, Luke 24:6-7. Here we learn:

A) The son of Man shall be ... ***it's going to happen***

B) ***Delivered into*** ... someone has got to do the delivering? Who does the delivering? Ultimately God because this is the plan of salvation; but He uses human agents to do so (Judas, Romans, etc.; see for instance Acts 2:23)

C) ... the hands of men:

V. 45 - 3. Why might the disciples not have understood Jesus's teachings that He was going to be crucified?

A. Perhaps limited faith as just demonstrated by the disciples not able to cast out certain demons; **b.** It didn't square with a conquering Messiah ruling the world. **C.** Perhaps it was not time for the disciples to understand **(Luke 24:16)** **D.** Some

commentators talk about messianic secret/suffering secret; Messianic - Jesus did not really openly declare Messiahship until he went to Jerusalem. **E.** They were fearful (end of 45); **F.** They were self absorbed.

V. 46 - We realize the disciples were self absorbed. They were thinking of 'rank' in the kingdom; which rank would which one get? How high could they attain.

V. 47- What does Jesus do? He puts a 'child by him'. 4. What picture is Jesus giving His disciples about the 'greatest in the kingdom' when He places a child right next to Him? (Luke 9:47).

Possible Answer: To be a child is to be great in God's kingdom. Don't go overboard on this thought, don't read too much into this: Children, socially, were not on the top in Roman or Jewish culture. This doesn't mean they were hated. They were loved; but Christ lifts them up as greater than the disciples in a sense.

* Matthew 20:20-22 - The mother of James and John asks Jesus to give her sons greatness, but Jesus responds - you don't know what you're asking. Can you go through what I'm going to go through? * In choosing a child, Jesus lifts up someone that would be seen socially lower to socially higher