

## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

May 22, 2019

The Gospel of Luke

*Growth Principles*

Topics – Luke 9:43 - 50

Text – Luke 9:43 - 50

### Introduction

Previously in Luke's gospel we studied the Mount of Transfiguration and then the healing of the demon-possessed boy. We also learned from the other gospel accounts that Jesus discussed this miracle with the disciples who were confused as to why they were powerless to help the boy themselves. Jesus told them that "this kind" of difficult problem could not be helped except through prayer and fasting.

I have entitled this last section of Luke nine, *Growth Principles*, because it contains many hard teachings that would not be understood by an immature believer. In fact, some of what Jesus says in this portion was not fully comprehended, and they would have to relearn some of the principles at a later time.

*"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9)*

*"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1 Corinthians 1:25)*

God will often call His children to do things that the world would think is ridiculous. God knows better.

#### I. Jesus Prophecies Regarding His Death (vs. 43 – 45)

This is the second prophecy regarding His passion found in Luke's gospel, and the second found in this chapter. (See Luke 9:21 – 22)

The parallel passages for this event are found in Matthew 17:22 – 23 and Mark 9:30 – 32:

*"And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And they shall kill him, **and the third day he shall be raised again.** And they were exceeding sorry." (Matthew 17:22-23)*

*"And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know it. For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, **and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.** But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him." (Mark 9:30-32)*

Though Jesus had told them on numerous occasions that He would be betrayed (See also Matthew 20:17 – 19; Mark 10:32 – 34; and Luke 18:31 – 33), and that He would be put to death, and that He would rise again, they failed to understand this; and, when the crucifixion part of the prophecy came to pass, instead of trusting in the coming resurrection, they collapsed.

How many times do we collapse when the realities of life hit us, instead of trusting in the prophecies and promises of God. (See Luke 24:1 – 35 for examples of the disciples lack of belief.)

Another practical truth that we can glean from this passage is that though God plainly teaches us principles from the Scripture, it will oftentimes take time for us to truly understand what He was teaching us, and many times it will only be through a painful trial that we learn these lessons.

Note – the following event recorded in Matthew’s gospel is not recorder by Mark, Luke, or John, but seems to have taken place in between vs. 45 and 46 in Luke.

*"And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee."* (Matthew 17:24-27)

## II. The Disciples Pride Is Rebuked (vs. 46 – 48)

*"At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, **Except ye be converted, and become as little children**, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall **humble himself as this little child**, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. **But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.**"* (Matthew 18:1-6)

*"And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest. And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, **If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.** And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them, Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me."* (Mark 9:33-37)

Luke will also give another instruction regarding little children. Here, He tells us that we must receive children, but in Luke 18, He tells us that we must receive Him as children (See Luke 18:14 – 17), meaning that we cannot be such “know it alls,” that we can no longer learn truth. We must remain teachable, and believing.

In Mark 10:35 – 45, Jesus gives further instructions regarding seeking greatness.

### III. The Disciples Prejudice is Removed (vs. 49 – 50)

The only parallel passage for this event is found in Mark 9:38 - 41:

*"And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part. For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."*

(Mark 9:38-41)

Notice another passage in Luke, which seems to teach the opposite, but does not:

*"He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth."* (Luke 11:23)

The explanation of these two passages is that the passage in Luke nine gives us the criteria from which we should judge another, but the criteria in Luke 11 tells us how the Lord judges us.

There are a lot of good people out there who love the Lord that are not part of our church.

We are on the same team with a lot of other churches, and even other Christian organizations that are not churches. I can be against any particular false doctrine that another Christian may espouse without being against them. While I am not for churches or religious groups that do not advocate salvation by grace through faith, I am not opposed to them, either; meaning, I am not trying to stop them from doing what they do.

The Catholic Church is a works plus faith religious system, and I do not support them, but I am not fighting them, either. (Also Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, etc.)

I do believe in separation, however; both individual separation and ecclesiastical separation.

As an individual Christian, I can have fellowship with other Christians, as long as I am not participating in anything that violates my beliefs.

As a church, we typically only fellowship corporately, with other churches of like faith. The exception would be when we come together to support something that we have an interest in, in common.

Illustrate – Praying for the community; national day of prayer, etc.

There is a practical application to this as well that doesn't regard doctrine or fellowship. If somebody is not bothering you, mind your own business.

*"Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me."* (John 21:21-22)

# JESUS' MINISTRY IN PALESTINE

- # Numbered events of Jesus' ministry
- City
- ▲ Mountain

0 10 20 Miles  
0 10 20 Kilometers

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

