

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE - Dave Solmes

Jesus & Power - Pt. 3 | Luke 9:49-55 | July 25, 2021

Read: Luke 9:1-2

The chapter begins with a transfer of power. Simply stated: Jesus gave them power and authority (transfer of power) and pointed them in a direction to go and help people and tell them about the Kingdom of God.

Question:

I do think that the disciples wanted their lives to count for something bigger themselves. I think that longing lies in everyone's heart. What do you think?

Question:

When you think of the word power and authority what comes to your mind?

Question:

What is the difference between the world's definition and God's definition of power and authority?

Read: Luke 9:49-55:

On two occasions we hear the disciples way out of line with what Jesus is doing ...

Read: Matthew 12:34

Question: In what ways do we speak out of the abundance of our hearts.

First Statement: He is NOT one of us.

Read: Luke 9:49

What is the cause of the disciples' contempt?

Note: The disciples expected Jesus to pat them on the back for this one. A job well done in protecting the integrity of their ministry. But Jesus turns to them and sighs. He says "Don't stop him. Whoever is not against you is for you." This kind of behaviour wasn't sanctioned by Jesus.

Note: Jesus definition of who is in and who is out is obviously different than what the disciples was.

C.S. Lewis - a proud man is always looking down on things and people. And of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you."

Second Statement:

Read: Luke 9:51-52

The Samaritans: The Samaritans had become something of a culturally hybrid people. Their roots went back to being part of the Israel's northern kingdom...but they had given themselves to the idolatry of the Assyrians. While the Jews honoured Jerusalem as the holy city the Samaritans had made Mt. Gerizim the centre of their worship. They had built their own temple there. The Samaritans did not like the Jews. History would tell us that just over a 100 years before this time, here in Luke 9, that temple in Mt. Gerizim was destroyed by a zealous Jewish king. So, there is no surprise here about why the Samaritans didn't welcome this Jewish group into their town, and especially Jews making a pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem. Animosity and hatred – very real. Furthermore, The Jews did not like the Samaritans: The Jews looked upon the Samaritan people as those who had betrayed their own culture and God.

While we might think that the disciples were acting in some extreme manner... they were acting in a way that can run through any of us. They didn't like each other ... drew lines in the sand.

Over the years we have seen how Christians can be notoriously judgmental in the name of standing up for themselves. Whenever we want to bring "our judgment" to "our defined enemies." We judge according to what we presume the offense to be.

A famous scholar once said, "The root and origin of sin is the arrogance in which man wants to be his own and his neighbours judge. We prefer to exercise the right to determine good and evil, rather than leave this knowledge and revelation to God."

Read Luke 9:53-56

The anger of the disciples is on full display. It was not righteous anger, wrongful anger. Jesus rebuked them. Perhaps it was because Jesus saw a very thinly veiled racial and cultural prejudice in their lives. The disciples found the Samaritans worthy of death for their prejudice, but did not recognize the same evil in themselves.

1. Greatness lies not in the power to gain social status but in the power to lift up the value of the least.
2. Greatness lies not in the power of competition, but in the power to bless all that serves God's purposes, even if beyond our turf and type.
3. Greatness lies not in the power of our prejudicial superiority and judgment, but the power of humility that leaves final judgment to God alone.

There is a pride that will always enjoy finding ways to define a right group... and then try to join it.

Read Romans 5:8: That is the Gospel. That is greatness.

Closing: Jesus says to you, "I have given you my authority. Go and help people ..tell them about the Kingdom of God."