


The Disciples Fail to Understand

Luke 9:37 - 50


Presented by Bob DeWaay
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From the glory of the transfiguration to a desperate situation

- **Luke 9:37, 38**

On the next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him. And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only boy,"



The disciples fail to extend Jesus' ministry of "release to captives"

- **Luke 9:39, 40**

and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming at the mouth; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him as it leaves. I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not."



The disciples failure is linked to
unbelief in Israel's history

■ **Luke 9:41**

And Jesus answered and said, "You
unbelieving and perverted generation, how
long shall I be with you and put up with
you? Bring your son here."



A perverse generation without faith

■ **Deuteronomy 32:5, 20**

They have acted corruptly toward Him,
They are not His children, because of their
defect; But are a perverse and crooked
generation. . . Then He said, "I will hide My
face from them, I will see what their end
shall be; For they are a perverse
generation, Sons in whom is no
faithfulness."



Jesus releases a captive and
reveals God's greatness

■ **Luke 9:42, 43a**

While he was still approaching, the demon
slammed him to the ground and threw him
into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the
unclean spirit, and healed the boy and
gave him back to his father. And they were
all amazed at the greatness of God.



They are not to let their amazement
take their mind off of the cross

■ **Luke 9:43b, 44**

But while everyone was marveling at all
that He was doing, He said to His
disciples, "Let these words sink into your
ears; for the Son of Man is going to be
delivered into the hands of men."



They cannot understand how glory
can coexist with rejection

■ **Luke 9:45**

But they did not understand this
statement, and it was concealed from
them so that they would not perceive it;
and they were afraid to ask Him about this
statement.



Inability to understand is thematic

■ **Luke 18:33 - 34**

"For He will be handed over to the
Gentiles, and will be mocked and
mistreated and spit upon, and after they
have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and
the third day He will rise again." But the
disciples understood none of these things,
and the meaning of this statement was
hidden from them, and they did not
comprehend the things that were said.



Inability to understand is resolved by
the Holy Spirit

■ **John 16:12, 13a**

"I have many more things to say to you,
but you cannot bear them now. But when
He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide
you into all the truth;"



Their "deliberations" show them
ironically to be opponents of Jesus

■ **Luke 9:46**

An argument started among them as to
which of them might be the greatest.



They are to welcome those of low status

■ **Luke 9:47, 48**

But Jesus, knowing what they were
thinking in their heart, took a child and
stood him by His side, and said to them,
"Whoever receives this child in My name
receives Me, and whoever receives Me
receives Him who sent Me; for the one
who is least among all of you, this is the
one who is great."



They want to stop someone who is
doing what they failed at

■ **Luke 9:49**

John answered and said, "Master, we saw
someone casting out demons in Your
name; and we tried to prevent him
because he does not follow along with us."



There is no neutrality toward Jesus
and His disciples

■ **Luke 9:50**

But Jesus said to him, "Do not hinder him;
for he who is not against you is for you."



Applications and Implications

- 1) It takes a work of God's grace to truly
understand the cross
- 2) We must welcome people with low status
- 3) We must avoid narrow exclusivism



1) It takes a work of God's grace to truly understand the cross

■ **1Corinthians 2:14**

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.



1) It takes a work of God's grace to truly understand the cross

■ **1Corinthians 1:18**

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.



2) We must welcome people with low status

■ **James 2:1, 2**

My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes,



2) We must welcome people with low status

■ **James 2:3, 4**

and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?



3) We must avoid narrow exclusivism

■ **Numbers 11:27, 28**

So a young man ran and told Moses and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." Then Joshua the son of Nun, the attendant of Moses from his youth, said, "Moses, my lord, restrain them."



3) We must avoid narrow exclusivism

■ **Numbers 11:29**

But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!"
