



Today's Message

Date: October 18, 2020
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Faith, Conceit, and Failure***

Text: Luke 9:37–50 (ESV)

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹ And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. ⁴⁰ And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹ Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴² While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.” ⁴⁵ But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

⁴⁶ An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest.

⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side ⁴⁸ and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

⁴⁹ John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.” ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.”

Introduction: When Jesus was transfigured on the mountain (Luke 9:28-36), the Father spoke to the disciples who were present. “This is my Son; *listen to him*,” he said. In the verses that follow, Luke weaves together a series of four brief stories from the life of Jesus that demonstrate the disciples’ need to listen to Jesus. The stories present a series of failures—failures of faith. Each also contains instruction from Jesus. The common thread among these stories is the disciples’ tendency to value themselves above Jesus. They valued their abilities, their opinion, their greatness, and their importance. They certainly had much to learn.

Today’s take-home truth: Personal pride is an obstacle to following Jesus; let us humble ourselves and listen to him.

- I. In contrast to self-reliance, faith depends on Jesus. 37-43a**

- II. In contrast to self-will, faith submits to Jesus. 43b-45**

- III. In contrast to self-promotion, faith serves Jesus. 46-48**

- IV. In contrast to self-importance, faith exalts Jesus. 49-50**