

## **The Gospel of Luke**

### **Pride and Prejudice**

Luke 9:46-56

1. **Internal Pride** (vs.46-48)

A. **An Ill-Timed Argument** (v.46)

The disciples' argument followed closely after Jesus first informed them that He must be rejected by the Jews, die, and rise again (Luke 9:22, 44).

B. **A Memorable Correction** (vs.47-48)

Young children were often found to be a nuisance and they were culturally insignificant (cf. Matt 19:13; Luke 18:15). Knowing this, Jesus uses a child to illustrate that greatness is not determined by an individual's utility or other perceived value, but in their relationship to Jesus and the Father.

2. **Intramural Pride** (vs.49-50)

A. **A Foreign Minister** (v.49)

Jesus had specifically given power of casting out demons to the twelve (Luke 9:1) and would later give that power to seventy others (Luke 10:1). Where others failed to mimic the disciples (cf. Acts 19:13ff), this man was successful.

B. **An Acceptable Ministry** (v.50)

Simply not being part of the disciples' group is no reason to forbid true ministry (cf. Acts 18:24ff). While sectarian fidelity is not necessary for gospel ministry (1 Cor 1:11ff; 3:4ff), fidelity to Christ is (Luke 11:23 cf. Gal 1:6-9; Phil 1:15-16).

3. **External Prejudice** (vs.51-56)

A. **A Determined Journey** (v.51)

Jesus death on a Roman cross was not an unfortunate accident; He had already made it plain that this must happen (Luke 9:22, 44)

B. **A Cold Refusal** (vs.52-53)

The proper place of worship was one of the chief points of strife between Jews and Samaritans (cf. John 4:20-22), and this is the reason they rejected Jesus.

C. **A Heated Response** (v.54)

Rejecting the Messiah is no small matter. Knowing this, John and James desired to respond after the manner of Elijah by incinerating them (2 Kings 1:9ff).

D. **A Calming Rebuke** (vs.55-56)

While rejecting Jesus deserves God's judgment and wrath (cf. Luke 10:10-15), the present ministry of Christ and His disciples is to be characterized by mercy (Luke 10:2; 19:10).