

The First Law of Spiritual Leadership in the Kingdom of God help others succeed and you succeed ...Jesus didn't operate a formal school, but his disciples took quite a course. He disciplined them over a three year period, not only establishing the course subject matter, but setting the pattern by which future disciples should walk. His curriculum is difficult to institutionalize because of its rigorous standards. Institutions have sought to define it, replicate it, and make programs out of it. But few have succeeded for it is taught as a walked out process...

As Jesus is beginning to move toward his destiny with the cross and the resurrection...he is concerned with the state of His disciples preparedness for his departure and the ministry they would continue after ward... **there is much work to be done...**

**Then they enter into an extended time of teaching from Jesus..... he wanted time alone with them... He had previously told them he would die at the hands of the religious leaders... He reveals more of his destiny** and says this will come about through betrayal

➤ We pick up where we left off last week... Set the scene...transfiguration Jesus taking three up the mountain for about six days.. ... while down in the valley six days of failure to cast out a demon..and the ensuing confusion of the disciples...and the ridicule of the religious leaders...the Jesus sets him free...

*NLT Luke 9:42 As the boy came forward, the demon knocked him to the ground and threw him into a violent convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit and healed the boy. Then he gave him back to his father. <sup>43</sup> Awe gripped the people as they saw this majestic display of God's power.....*

**After Jesus' healing of the demonized boy...Everyone there was amazed ...Jesus at the height of his popularity... where as the nine**

**disciples looked to the crowd and religious leaders as failures and felt that way about themselves ...And Jesus makes an interesting statement to them**

43.....*While everyone was marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, <sup>44</sup> “Listen to me and remember what I say. The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies.” <sup>45</sup> But they didn’t know what he meant. Its significance was hidden from them, so they couldn’t understand it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.*

**Jesus now wants to take them away away from the crowds ...because he wanted to teach is disciples...there is a time for public ministry ...and there is a time for private instruction...**

So they walked for quite a ways through north through Galilee...toward Capernaum as Mark tells us

*NLT MK 9:30 <sup>30</sup> Leaving that region, they traveled through Galilee. Jesus didn’t want anyone to know he was there, <sup>31</sup> for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead.”*

- **So Jesus brings truth to them... that he wants them to listen too and remember These same people who are amazed at me now.... or others like them will turn on him in the future...**
- **This is not a popularity contest...but a cause...and often time causes are not always popular...as you will see...**
- **My mission has always been to heal mankind from the consequence of sin, and eternal death...and offer forgiveness of sin and eternal life to anyone who would receive it**

- The disciples at this time did not understand what it meant to stay on mission whether they were mocked as failures or hailed as Heroes!
- **But Jesus adds additional info...**
- He had previously told them he would die at the hands of the religious leaders now he tells them it will be by betrayal...
- This new information rocked them and the full force of it was hidden from their understanding...they could not wrap their minds around it is just too much...

Matthew recounting the event adds that this information filled with grief....

*NLT MT 17: 22 ..... “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies.”<sup>23</sup> He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead.” And the disciples were filled with grief.*

- **FILLED with grief...means full to the brim... they were not able to process any more**
- **...filled with sadness, confusion, a kind of despair, misery... everything else and now this... **Jesus is going from popular to condemned, And by betrayal** ...and they did not understand resurrection...**
- **After all One is only betrayed by someone who is a trusted confidant or considered a close friend... How can this be? and were afraid to ask any questions...**
- **What kind of Kingdom is this???...The apostles understood they were the chosen twelve...which was a great moment for them...and seemed like a glorious future...but not they are shocked by their failure...and this info that Jesus is going to die....**
- **When ones faith is rocked... ones expectations seem dashed...one becomes confused, insecure, and disillusioned...Jesus has brought this upon them...so they don't want to talk to him anymore...**
- **So they discuss and argue among themselves what this all means...**

They walk until they get to Capernaum...Peter's home town a good number of miles from where they were....they did not talk to Jesus but they sure talked to one another...

*Mark9:33 **They came to Capernaum.** When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" 34 But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.*

**Why The argument??? they were rocked in their understanding of Jesus...they did not know what to expect from here on out...and what they did imagine the future looked like was now in the air ...they are panicking that it is all out of control... when we feel out of control we look around to who or what we can control...**

- **Well what does this look like for the 12 of us..and where do I fit with Jesus... So who is going to take over... who should be number two three and so on down to twelfth**
- **It was time to regain and establish status and importance and who is loyal to Jesus within the group...in reality they wanted to affirm their belonging, their value and their importance to the group**
- **And we have all compared ourselves to others...especially when we feel judged, rejected, failed or insecure....**
- **They were arguing out who failed, whose more loyal, whose a better leader, whose the teachers pets, with good reason**
- **After all Three are singled out for special time six days alone with Jesus on the mountain... which appears to set a pecking order ..but why them? And they wont even tell us what happened up there!**
- **The other Nine down the hill have failed quite spectacularly**
- **Then told their lack of prayer and faith is a big problem**
- **So now they start to judge eachother by comparing themselves to eachother...**

- So when Jesus asks them what they are arguing about on the road...it is another embarrassing moment...another rebuke coming? Because it does reveal their pride and fear ...and appears childish ...so no one says anything .

Mark 9:35 *Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."*

- Jesus sitting down is a teachers position.....He calls like time for class ....they gather around him and stand, a students position...
- I would be thinking ...Oh Man another teaching moment...just what we don't want...is this more bad news...

**1. He gives them ...the first law of Leadership in His Kingdom... Help others succeed and you will succeed**

2. Notice He does not condemn their desire to be first...he redefines how one achieves that position.....**it is not about...Power, title or position ...He states that your position in leadership is determined by your ability to be taught..you must first follow...and your willingness to serve not limited to the down and out..but includes your fellow leaders!! ...**

**3. The greatest among them is the one who serves the other 11 best...**

**\*\*\*\*\*His definition of greatness is simply this.... Greatness is helping the others succeed...**

- **You are either helping them succeed or you competing with them and when you compete you certainly don't help them.**
- **And when you help them succeed you succeed also...If all twelve help all twelve advance ...they are all Greatest!!!!**

**Their society runs...opposite first...the greater are served by the**

## lessor...He knew they were trying to wrap their thinking around this new leadership paradigm

*NLT Luke 9: 47 But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he brought a little child to his side. <sup>48</sup> Then he said to them, “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes my Father who sent me. Whoever is the least among you is the greatest.”*

- **In those times women were viewed as second class citizens and children as third class citizens. They were not even included in the count of the crowd of 5,000 which Jesus fed with five loaves and two fish.**
- **Children were considered a liability until they could grow up and serve and earn a living to support the household...**
- **The one who is most like a child in attitude... being the least in position, and power... ranks highest...how?**
- **little Children know they don't know...that is why they ask a billion questions...they are teachable**
- **They know they need others to survive and succeed... they are dependent and ok with that...their power and skills have obvious limitations.....adults often do not realize that!!**
- **They don't have near the amount of problems adults do in “following the leader”...**
- **They like to play with other children...once they get past two years old.. which is mutual submission...you be mom or dad...I am the baby and visa versa...rather than always compete with others...**

- a child does not hold long grudges against other children; soon they forget that they fought and becomes friendly again.
- They believe the impossible is possible...or else why would anyone believe in Santa? One guy going to every house in the world in one night? And...they don't mind getting dirty together...

**Jesus says be like a child who knows they need help...so help one another!!**

**\*\*\*\* So John interrupts with a burning question...Ok we are all to help one another but were still better than others ...Right??**

*NLT Luke 9:49 John said to Jesus, "Master, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he isn't in our group."*  
<sup>50</sup> *But Jesus said, "Don't stop him! Anyone who is not against you is for you."*

*MK 9:39 "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, <sup>40</sup> for whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.*

**John reveals his heart.... He and They are not only competitive with each other but also with other servants of the Gospel...other disciples...**

- The man was doing a wonderful work of God. And helping people...But John did not accept him because he was not one of them.
- **I am sure the demon possessed man was happy this guy drove him out...but who cares about results... he must be stopped**



- Jesus reply...**DO NOT STOP HIM....** It is not only about you guys!!! **I tell you the truth!!!** **In other words really John listen to me about this...**
- **If he is doing a miracle in my name...he is connected to me...and if he is connected to me.... He is connected to you!!!**
- **If someone so much as gives a glass of water because you are connected to me...they are connected to me...and that will be rewarded by me!!!**
- **Serving others even a little gives you heavenly reward and stature...helping others in the means is helping yourself**
- There is no such thing as to little a service ...all service to God is remembered by God!! And moves the Kingdom forward...  
Do You want to be great in the Kingdom??? Good it is way possible!

*Don't do this....NLT Gal 5:26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.*

- Which does nothing but hinder the Kingdom...but is the way of the world...instead...Do this...

*NLT John 13:34-35 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

- Tough command until we realize deep inside that to love one means to help them succeed. When we help someone succeed we succeed !!
- Want a good relationship...help that person succeed!

*NLT Dan 12:3 Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.*

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**All these establishing position and control came about during times of extreme stress and the resulting insecurity...they were in essence pulling away from God and taking over themselves...**

**The presence of Jesus ...and his ways...became not enough...**

**They had not learned yet...that the mere presence of Jesus is the guarantee of his PROVISION....**

- **Their minds ran and they ran with them....They could not still themselves with Him**
- **He is giving them insight into his plan and His ways with utter and complete assurance that it will work out ...just fine!!!**
- **His Plan will accomplish His Will and his ways are perfect....**

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- Our biggest hindrance to greatness may be the desire to be great....
- not because that desire is wrong for Jesus will not attack the desire...
- He will address their misunderstanding of what It means to be great in His Kingdom
- So who is going to take over... who should be number two three and so on down to twelfth

Mark 9:35 *Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."*

- Jesus sits down...sitting down is a teachers position.....He calls them like a teacher calling the class together....they gather around him and stand most likely...a students position...

- I would be thinking ...Oh Man another teaching moment...just what we don't want...is this more bad news...
- He gives them ...the first laws of Leadership in His Kingdom...  
Help others succeed and you will succeed
- Notice He does not condemn their desire to be first...he redefines how one achieves that position..... **it is not about...Power, title or position ...He states that your position in leadership is determined by your ability to be taught..you must first follow...and your willingness to serve not the down and out..but your fellow leaders!! ...comes from humility coupled with service...**
- The greatest among them is the one who serves the other 11 best...His definition of greatness is simply this.... Greatness is helping the others succeed...who is around you are you helping them succeed or are you competing with them??? And when you help them succeed you succeed also...you help the other twelve advance... **if all twelve help all twelve advance ...they are all number one!!**

That is a first ...that is not how their society runs...then he blows their minds again with another first...the powerful are served by the lessor..He knew they were trying to wrap their thinking around the spiritual paradigm

*NLT Luke 9: 47 But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he brought a little child to his side. 48 Then he said to them, “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes my Father who sent me. Whoever is the least among you is the greatest.”*

- **In those times women were viewed as second class citizens and children as third class citizens. They were not even included in the count of the crowd of 5,000 which Jesus fed with five loaves and two fish.**
- **Children were considered a liability until they could grow up and serve and earn a living to support the household...**
- **The one who is most like a child in attitude... being the least in position, and power... ranks highest...how?**
- because Children know they don't know...that is why they ask a billion questions...they are teachable
- they know they need others...they know they cannot make it alone...they are dependent
- they don't have near the amount of problems adults do in "following the leader"...
- they like to play with other children...once they get past two years old.. which is mutual submission...you be mom or dad...I am the baby and visa versa...rather than always compete with them...
- a child does not hold long grudges against other children; soon he forgets that they fought and becomes friendly again.
- they believe the impossible is possible...or else why would anyone believe in Santa? One guy going to every house in the world in one night? And...they don't mind getting dirty...

**Jesus speaks of welcoming a child the powerless as being the equivalent of welcoming Jesus- and that in turn is the equivalent of welcoming God the Father.**

**\*\*\*The disciples got this a little...ok were ok but what about them...even the weakest amongst us twelve...**

**S o John interrupts with a burning question...Ok we are all equal but at least were better then others...Right??**

NLT Luke 9:49 John said to Jesus, “Master, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he isn’t in our group.”  
 50 But Jesus said, “Don’t stop him! Anyone who is not against you is for you.”

*MK 9:39 "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, 40 for whoever is not against us is for us. 41 I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.*

- **Jesus reply...DO NOT STOP HIM.... It is not only about you guys!!! I tell you the truth!!! In other words really John listen to me about this...**
- **The problem of Us versus them...We are better then them...we do it better then them...they don't do it like us!!**
- **The man was doing a wonderful work of God. And helping people...But John did not accept him because he was not one of them.**
- **I am sure the demon possessed man was happy this guy drove him out...but who cares about results...**

*Exclusive people are dangerous and petty creatures and they cannot please God.*

- **They actually try to hinder the work of God in the name of God...**
- **John reveals his heart.... He and They are not only competitive with each other but also with other servants of the Gospel...other disciples...**

- **Someone else was effectively doing the works of Jesus but that person was not them...so he must be stopped...Right Jesus??**
- **John ... felt the need to fight for greater market share and personal following...hey this is our monopoly...**
- **If he is doing a miracle in my name...he is connected to me...and if he is connected to me.... He is connected to you!!!**
- **If someone so much as gives a glass of water because he is connected to me...even that will be rewarded by me!!! Serving others even a little gives you heavenly reward and stature...**
- **There is no such thing as to little a service ...all service to God is remembered by God!!**

**All these establishing position and control came about during times of extreme stress and the resulting insecurity...they were in essence pulling away from God and taking over themselves...**

**The presence of Jesus ...and his ways...became not enough...**

**They had not learned yet...that the mere presence of Jesus is the guarantee of his PROVISION....**

- **Their minds ran and they ran with them....They could not still themselves with Him**
- **He is giving them insight into his plan and His ways with utter and complete assurance that it will work out ...just fine!!!**
- **His Plan will accomplish His Will and his ways are perfect....**

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**end**

## **John was a little slow on the uptake...in a short while...**

*MK 10:35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."*

*MK 10:36 "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.*

*MK 10:37 They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."*

**John learned a little ...ok if you are doing what Jesus wants...carry on...but how about if people reject us? Can we burn them and their village.....**

**Can we at least Judge people??**

- **John was spiritually young, but his loyalty to Jesus was matchless. He was clear...those who reject Jesus at first hearing should pay...**

*LK 9:51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" <sup>55</sup> But Jesus turned and **rebuked them**, <sup>56</sup> and they went to another village.*

- **He rebuked them... James and John felt that their pride was hurt and asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"**
  - **They were angry at their rejection, like roaring thunder, and the expression of their anger was domineering.**
  - **In Their self-righteous anger which was really pride..., they were ready to burn down a whole village and its people. Jesus rebuked them... final Judgment is the prerogative of God alone.**
  - **No matter what the reason may be, thin skinned ...angry people are not good leaders.**

**Then a little while later...at the last supper with Jesus...His last night on earth...it is about them again...**



*Luke 22:24* Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.

- What is going on here??
- A couple of things...all these arguments about position ..were revealed during times of insecurity...and disillusionment... ...and very real trouble...

This is the amazing power of Jesus...he has the capacity then and now to bring to the surface what is really inside of us...

- What will really hinder us...and not to punish us but to reveal it and remove it...for our benefit and to increase our ability to minister like him...
- Some quickly and some repeatedly...he will deal with it...so we better also!!!

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- Their minds ran and they ran with them....They could not still themselves with Him
- He is giving them insight into his plan and His ways with utter and complete assurance that it will work out ...just fine!!!
- His Plan will accomplish His Will and his ways are perfect....
- If they would just be still...and Know He is God...

*PS 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations,*

*I will be exalted in the earth."*

*PS 46:11 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

- In their trouble they forgot Jesus knows best!!!

**For us today like the apostles were at different times ...some in here are in a panic!  
Things are happening that have thrown us for a loop...and our heads are running and  
we have been running with them...**

**Let us stop for a moment and get to Reality...Jesus is present...he has not ever left for  
even a millisecond...His presence is the assurance of his PROVISION!!**

**If that is you ....lets pray this prayer together ...and trust our Jesus has a plan and a  
way in this and through this...**

**Pray after me:**

**Thank You Jesus that you are here, with me right now in this...situation**

**Thank you Jesus that you have a will in this situation**

**I don't know how you are going to work it out...**

**But I know you are with me because you said you would be...**

**I don't even have to feel your Presence, your word is enough**

**I will not panic but be still and know that you are God in and over this situation...and I  
trust you!! Thank you Amen**

**Now wait and see the Lord's do His thing...**

*RO 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have  
been called according to his purpose.*

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LK 9:42 *Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father.* <sup>43</sup> *And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.*

*While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples,* <sup>44</sup> *"Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: **The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men.**"* <sup>45</sup> *But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.*

- **When they deciphered his going to Jerusalem, their human ambition made them fantasize that greatness would soon be theirs by becoming cabinet members in the earthly messianic kingdom they thought Jesus would establish. But who would be the greatest among them troubled their hearts.**
- Set the seen...transfiguration ...failure of disciples success of Jesus
- After Jesus' healing of the demonized boy...He looked really good in the eyes of the people...the nine disciples looked or at least felt... really inept in the people's eyes.....
- For Jesus explained to them they had to go to another level of spiritual discipline prayer and faith...
- and the three who were up in the mountain with Jesus...probably felt relieved...or if prideful...felt if they were down their during this event ...they would have been able to cast it out....
- And nobody was going to ask him any more questions...they had already been rebuked for failing to accomplish what they had been given power to accomplish...
- But in the midst of this Jesus makes an interesting comment...
- So Jesus brings truth to them...*"Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men."*
- **These same people who are amazed at him now... or others like them will turn on him in the future...he did not do this for the applause of man but the applause of heaven...**
- **This is not a popularity contest...but a cause...and often time causes are not popular...it was hidden from their understanding...their view of Jesus....**
- They did not understand what it meant to be a leader in Jesus' kingdom...nor to stay on mission at great personal cost

They had what is called **cognitive dissonance**, that really made me start thinking that perhaps I am living in a state of mental contradiction, Jesus had the power to heal...and would be controlled by men...

- the term cognitive dissonance describes **conflicting thoughts** or beliefs (**cognitions**) that occur at the same time, or when engaged in behaviors that conflict with one's beliefs.

- In simple terms, it can be the filtering of information that conflicts with what one already believes, in an effort to ignore that information and reinforce one's beliefs.
- Not only did the disciples have mental conflict over what Jesus just did and said...they enter into a new ones...
- Power verse humility...serving and leading..
- When the disciples are on ...they are spot on...
- When they are off...they are way off...
- **Though they were growing ....They still had pride problems that resulted in relationship problems...**

*LK 9:46 An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. <sup>47</sup> Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. <sup>48</sup> Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all--he is the greatest."*

- In this first incident ...the apostles began to jockey for position, titles, bonuses and perks on the kingdom's corporate ladder. Why?
- The apostles were emotionally defending themselves...they felt extremely vulnerable by having their failure revealed openly...being challenged by both the people and the religious leaders and rebuked for their lack of faith by Jesus... not to mention a pecking order already appears that place three of the apostles a head of the others...
- It was time to regain and establish status within the group...in reality they wanted to affirm their belonging, that they were still loved and accepted...
- So what do you do ...jockey for position ...where do I rank in this 12 man pack???
- A hierarchical leadership structure is where you have someone at the top, then you have someone under them, then you have someone at the very bottom. The one at the top has more authority than the one below him. The person lower has less authority than the one above, and on it goes. It is a descending order of authority. It's top-down authority. It is a command-style relationship.
- Then Jesus steps in a corrects them...stating that status ...comes a position of power but humility couples with service...
- A person's status in life is not what makes them useful in leadership, but the calling and gifting God places upon them and how they use it for the master which is only is far as their character takes them.
- And It must be like a child...they do not own it...

- Their call and gifting is not theirs ...they do not own it...just as a child is not owner of his parents belongings...
- Their character is their own...but it must be developed ...just as a child's character is to be developed by the love and instruction and discipline of their parents...
- Much trouble happens when parents neglect or abandoned or abuse their position in a child's life... or a child's continual refusal to obey and grow in healthy character...

<sup>48</sup> *Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all--he is the greatest."*

- The one who is most like a child... ... ranks highest... Why?
  1. because Children know they don't know...that is why they ask a billion questions...**they are teachable**
  2. they know they need others...they know they cannot make it alone...**they are dependent**
  3. they don't have near the amount of problems adults do in **"following the leader"**...
  4. **they like to play with other children**... which is mutual submission...you be mom or dad...I am the baby and visa versa...rather than always compete with them... **a child does not hold grudges against other children; soon he forgets that they fought and becomes friendly again.**
  5. **they believe the impossible is possible**...or else why would anyone believe in Santa? One guy going to every house in the world in one night?
  6. **And...they don't mind getting dirty**...

Those attitudes will take you far in the kingdom of God...also

Jesus speaks of **welcoming** a child being the equivalent of welcoming Jesus- and that in turn the equivalent of welcoming God the Father.

- When guests come to our homes what do we say, "Welcome!" It means to come in because we will accept you and serve you and enjoy your company.

- Usually we like to welcome our loved ones or people of high standing. But who was Jesus saying to welcome? A little child.
- In those times women were viewed as second class citizens and children as third class citizens. They were not even included in the count of the crowd of 5,000 which Jesus fed with five loaves and two fish.
- Children were considered a liability until they could grow up and serve and earn a living to support the household.

**The disciples got this a little...ok were ok but what about them...were better then them...**

*LK 9:49 "Master," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us." LK 9:50 "Do not stop him," Jesus said, "for whoever is not against you is for you."*

**John was spiritually young, but his loyalty to Jesus was matchless. He was clear that whoever did not side with Jesus should be punished. Can I stop him ...please**

- **The man was doing a wonderful work of God. But John did not accept him because he was not one of them. These days many religious leaders shamelessly condemn each other simply because they are not one of them.**
- **Exclusive people are dangerous and petty creatures and they cannot please God.**
- They actually try to hinder the work of God in the name of God...
- They are not only competitive with each other but also with other servants of the Gospel...other disciples...
- Someone else was effectively doing the works of Jesus but that person was not them...so he must be stopped...
- Who does he think he is???
- John ... felt the need to fight for greater market share and personal following...hey this is a monopoly...

**John learned a little ...ok if you are doing what Jesus wants...carry on...but how about if they reject us? Can we burn them and their village....**

*LK 9:51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" <sup>55</sup> But Jesus turned and rebuked them, <sup>56</sup> and they went to another village.*

James and John felt that their pride was hurt and asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" (54)

- **No matter what the reason may be, thin skinned ...people who cannot stay on task when some reject them ple are not good leaders... for two reasons...**
- **One Anger caused by rejection which cause the to abandon the mission**
- They were angry at their rejection, like roaring thunder, and the expression of their anger was domineering.
- **Destroy them...literally revenge!!!**
- **Their self-righteous anger, they were ready to burn down a whole village and its people.**
- **What kind of preparing a village to receive Jesus is that????**
- **James and John...must have faced many critics in their lives...and they obviously were not afraid to fight when put down...and the religious leaders ahd been putting them all down regularly for months...and not in private face to face but in front of all the people following them.....**
- **And now your sending us to Samatians ???**
- **We don't like them and they certainly don't like us...please let us put the hammer to them**
- **Or two they become door mats ...people pleasers in the hope of making everyone happy so they will not be rejected ...because they so desperately need to be liked... only to be rejected anyway, by some because you cant make everyone happy ever!! But you can love everyone!! In spite of rejection...**
- The main problem ...the disciples had assumed that the authority to proclaim the Gospel gave them the right to dispense Judgment.
- Jesus rebuked them...Judgment is the prerogative of God alone.
- Having tried to elbow out competitors as well as each other in a grab for power they were in essence trying to pull power away from God and give it to them selves...
- They are missing the point...but they will get it as John would write some 50 years later

*1JN 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup> This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence*

John turns to the great example of Love Jesus Christ...this is the way to do it...leadership is about serving based in love...not power , position or prestige...



- True love or agape love is the kind of love that is self sacrificing. It cost us to serve...not the ones were serving...
- Our natural love is self preservation...from the root self serve...
- Verse 16 **Self sacrificing love is by choice it is not martyrdom! It is not a power play...It is not taken it is given willingly**
- The first law of physical life is self preservation...save yourself, build yourself, protect yourself
- **The first law of spiritual life is self sacrifice**...one lays down their life for the greater increase of life...
- It is the sacrifice that produces much for others and increases our life...
- John immediately gives us the example of those who possess material possessions and witnesses a brother in need ...do we serve willingly?
- To love with just words is no love at all
- Christian love is personal and active...
- The test of Christian love is not found in professions about loving the whole church, but is found in quietly helping a brother in need.
- If we are unwilling to help a brother it is certain we would not lay down our lives for the brethren!
- Indifference is akin to murder
- To love with words or tongue only is insincere love
- To love in truth means to love a person genuinely ...to love a person genuinely means we will act constructively on their behalf.
- **To serve others who can't help us is not easy. It requires humbleness. It requires us becoming the least and dying to our self-ambition.**
- But ...Loving others is how we know we are in the truth...we get it...
- If Christ is in us we will act upon that in ways that bless others...period
- People will be attracted to Christ by that love, so that we can know and rest in his presence.

*Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup> This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence*

What is cool is that Jesus even with the apostles continued failure to understand and apply his teaching did not give into discouragement...yet persistently modeled for his disciples the meaning of a servant leader, giving it its ultimate definition through his own suffering and death... ..none the less leaves the ultimate example...

<sup>1</sup>**JN 3:16** *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.*

The only corrective against the corruption of Power ...is to give the power away...becoming a servant...

*MK 9:35 ...., "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."*

Self-righteous service, he says comes through human effort, but true service comes from a relationship with Jesus.

Self-righteous service is impressed with the big deal, but true service doesn't distinguish between small and large service.

Self-righteous service requires external rewards, but true service is contented with hiddenness.

Self-righteous service is highly concerned with results, but true service is free of the need to calculate results. It just serves and doesn't worry about tallying up the score.

Self-righteous service picks and chooses whom to serve, but true service is indiscriminate in its ministry, serving anyone and everyone.

Self-righteous service is affected by moods and whims. If it is a bad day, it forgets about serving. In contrast, true service ministers because there is a need, not out of how one feels.

Self-righteous service is temporary, but true service is a lifestyle.

Self-righteous service insists on meetings needs even when to do so would be unhelpful - because deep down, it really isn't about the one with the need. True service, on the other hand, can withhold service as freely as perform it if necessary.

Self-righteous service fractures community, while true service always builds community.

As followers of Jesus, this is our challenge. To live for others. To be servants.

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The only corrective against the corruption of Power ...is to give the power away...becoming a servant...

LK 9:57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

LK 9:58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

LK 9:59 He said to another man, "Follow me."

But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

LK 9:60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

LK 9:61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family."

LK 9:62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

### **Third, a truly petty man (49-56).**

**A truly petty man is an exclusive person (49,50). John was spiritually young, but his loyalty to Jesus was matchless. He was clear that whoever did not side with Jesus should be punished. One day John saw that someone was casting out a demon "in the name of Jesus." John tried to stop him from casting demons out of men because he was not one of them. But the man continued to cast out demons. John became upset; and he came to Jesus and said, "Master, we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us" (49). The man was doing a wonderful work of God. But John did not accept him because he was not one of them. These days many religious leaders shamelessly condemn each other simply because they are not one of them. Exclusive people are dangerous and petty creatures and they cannot please God.**

**A truly petty man is an angry person (51-56). Look at verse 51.**

**"As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem." Jesus knew well what was before him. It was to obey the will of God to die on the cross to save men**

from their sins. The betrayal, the unjust trial, the mockery, the scorn, the crown of thorns, the spitting, the nails and the agony on the cross might have spread before Jesus' mind's eye like a picture. But he never flinched or shrunk back for a moment from going to Jerusalem. As he traveled toward Jerusalem, Jesus sent his messengers on ahead to a Samaritan village, a Gentile territory, to get a place to stay. But the Samaritans did not welcome him because of their hatred toward the Jews and because they thought Jesus was going up to Jerusalem to have a meeting with dignitary Jews. James and John felt that their pride was hurt and asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" (54) They were angry at their rejection, like roaring thunder, and the expression of their anger was imperious. In their self-righteous anger, they were ready to burn down a whole village and its people. No matter what the reason may be, angry people are petty people.

Fourth, the cost of following Jesus (57-62).

In order to follow Jesus we must commit our security problem to God. Look at verse 57. "As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.'" The man wanted to follow Jesus at heart and become a great man of God. How did Jesus reply? Look at verse 58. "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." In light of Jesus' words, this man wanted to establish his future security first, and then do the work of God. Such people look ideal, but in the end they become like tax collectors. When we want to follow Jesus, we must first decide to commit our future security problem to God's hand by believing his promise. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

In order to follow Jesus, we must give first priority to Jesus.

Look at verse 59. "He said to another man, 'Follow me.' But the man replied, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.'" He wanted to finish his family responsibilities first, and then obey Jesus' calling. We are not even sure that his father was then dead. But this man seems to have been one of Confucius' disciples who had learned that a funeral service was gravely important. His priority was on his family affairs. Suppose by the time he buried his father, he would have many children to send to college and support until they could graduate with honors. For him, there were so many important things in the world which demanded first priority. If we want to follow Jesus, we must give first priority to God.

**In order to follow Jesus we must make a decision of faith. Look at verse 61. "Still another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family.'" He was a person who wanted to follow Jesus and Nick at the same time. His problem was that he had never made a decision of faith. In order to follow Jesus we must make a decision of faith and renew it every day. Look at verse 62. "Jesus replied, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'" Here, Jesus does not acquiesce to our indecisiveness. The privilege and seriousness of following Christ are of such tremendous magnitude that there is no room for indecisive people. May God help us accept the humbleness of Jesus and be a truly great man in the kingdom of God.**

*MK 10:35* Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

*MK 10:36* "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

*MK 10:37* They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

*MK 9:33* They came to Capernaum. When he was *in the house*, he asked them, "*What were you arguing about on the road?*"<sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

*MK 9:35* Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

*LK 22:14* When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

*LK 22:17* After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

LK 22:19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

LK 22:20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.<sup>21</sup> But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.<sup>22</sup> The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him."<sup>23</sup> They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

LK 22:24 Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors.<sup>26</sup> But you are not to be like that. Instead, **the greatest** among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.<sup>27</sup> For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.<sup>28</sup> You are those who have stood by me in my trials.<sup>29</sup> And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me,<sup>30</sup> so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

LK 22:31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.<sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

LK 22:33 But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

LK 22:34 Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."