

KING FOR ALL #21

Luke's Gospel



Failure

Luke 9:37-50

A. SERMON POINTS

1. Failure in ministry
2. Failure in understanding
3. Failure in leadership
4. Failure in attitude

B. DISCUSSION STARTER

How has a failure in your past taught you valuable lessons?

How should we ideally respond to failure?

C. FROM THE BIBLE

1. How did Jesus describe those that followed him, including the disciples? (v41)
Note how the people of Israel are described in Deuteronomy 32:5-6.
What does this imply about the spiritual condition of Jesus' followers?
(This will explain why the disciples could not cast out the demon.)

In Deuteronomy 32:43, God promised to judge his enemies and to cleanse (or make atonement for) the people of the land. How will God do that? Cf. Luke 9:44

2. If we want to grow in our understanding and insight as Christians, what will we need?
Cf. v45, 1 Corinthians 2:14, 3:6

The disciples did not yet understand that Jesus is the King who must die. They could not understand how God's Agent would be destined for death. The crowd that was marvelling at Jesus now, would later call for his execution. The adulation would not last.

3. What is greatness in God's estimation? (v48)
4. V49-50. What kind of attitude did Jesus condemn?
What kind of attitude did Jesus encourage?

A note on the exorcism:

1. The demon may have been exploiting a physical ailment (epilepsy) and making it worse.
2. God is able to heal by both miracle and medical interventions/ medicine.
3. It seems that Jesus and his contemporaries' ability to cast out demons were to authenticate that God was indeed at work in the world to achieve a great salvation. Satan's kingdom was and is being overthrown. However, nowhere in the New Testament letters are Christians instructed to cast out demons. We are instructed to pray for lost people and share the gospel with them. When someone puts their trust in Christ, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in them and there is no more capacity for demonic possession.
4. For more on the subject: <https://www.pastorfish.co.za/2016/07/05/lord-deliver-us-from-deliverance-ministries/>

D. IMPLICATIONS FOR ME

1. V41. What motivates you in your life and ministry? Are you humbly depending on God to convert and grow people?
2. V45. Are you making every effort to grow in your understanding as a Christian?
3. V46-47. Are you tempted to buy into the world's notion of greatness? (Status, power, authority etc.) How could you be the "least" as you serve Jesus first?
4. V49-50. How do you view other gospel churches and ministries?

E. PRAYER SUGGESTION

Please pray for our Mercy ministry team as they show care and kindness in practical ways. May the Lord give us all His heart of compassion.

Please pray for our upcoming Missions Conference.

