

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

February 10, 2019

LUKE

Desiring Greatness

Luke 9:46-48

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

⁴⁶ An argument arose among them as to which one of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷ But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side, ⁴⁸ and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest." **Luke 9:46-48**

DISCUSSION

Looking at this passage, pursuing greatness is easy in theory. What makes it tough is that the teachings of Jesus are counter-cultural to that on which our world places value. Thomas says greatness comes first through not being selfish, though society's message of placing ourselves first makes it difficult to live the type of life Jesus describes.

Why would Jesus give us such a high bar to reach with greatness? How could this marker Jesus sets for us actually liberate us from the way we have been living?

Studies show that people with sustained levels of happiness over time are involved with others. When the happiness of others begins to dominate our lives, we learn the meaning of true connection.

Why can happiness not happen in isolation? How many times have you been let down thinking that if you just had or achieved "that one more thing" your life would improve? How can you position yourself to better serve the happiness of the people around you?

Looking at the patterns of our lives can help us know how well we are connected are to God. Examine how you are doing within the disciplines that connect us to God: confession, solitude, community, and service.

Which areas are easy for you? Which ones can improve, and how? How would you like to ask God to specifically transform you so that you can live a life more closely resembling that of Jesus?

This passage teaches us that greatness is defined by people who go out and serve the interests of those around them.

Who are the people in your life who have embodied this? This week, Thomas encourages us stop, reflect and remember in some way these people, and write them a thank-you note.

As we continue to explore in Luke what it looks like to follow Jesus, may we remember that greatness comes in humbling ourselves and serving those around us.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank you for those people you have placed in our lives who embody greatness. Encourage us through their example, and embolden us to live like them. Thank you for the truth that the kind of greatness that Jesus teaches is attainable through you. Empower us to live as people who serve the happiness of those around us. **Amen.**