



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Greatness

JUNE 4, 2014

Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org.

In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching, forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly preached the Kingdom of God. Jesus is over half way through His 3 year ministry when He sends His select 12 common men to heal and preach. Jesus' impact became known to the common and to the royalty. God provided a rare glimpse of the kingdom of God through Jesus transfiguration on the mountain and now Luke records what happen the next day after this event. Jesus cast out demons and challenges all to have greater faith. This challenge caused some of them to boast pride fully of their faith.

“An argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest. But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side, and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great.” John answered and said, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name; and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow along with us.” But Jesus said to him, “Do not hinder him; for he who is not against you is for you.” (Luke 9: 46-50 NASB, Mt 18: 1-5; Mk 9: 33-40)

Competitive Faith? Possibly some of the apostles became jealous because Peter, James and John were selected to accompany Jesus to the mountain and they were not, or because the nine were unsuccessful in casting out the demon from the boy. In any event they developed a rivalry among themselves. Instead of being humble they were being proud and selfish. Jesus knew what was driving them.

Jesus knew their hearts. Jesus not only knew what they were thinking but also knew their hearts and their motives. He understood that they were not looking to serve but to be served. They were walking in the flesh and were acting very selfishly. The disciples were thinking about their rewards that Christ would provide rather than the cross that they each would need to bear. Jesus uses a child standing by His side to teach the disciples a lesson of greatness.

The value of the ‘least of these’. Jesus provides an example of what greatest believer's faith will look like. A person with great faith will take time to serve all people, not just the important and influential but also the perceived least important, such as children. All are of value to Christ and when His disciples receive them they receive Him and the One who sent Him.

They are not us. John relates to Jesus that there were people that did not travel with Jesus and yet were casting out demons in His name. The disciples did not understand the concept that service to Christ could be done outside of their immediate circle of fellowship. Jesus teaches a very valuable lesson to His disciples. He shares that when people serve and minister in His name they are giving all glory and credit to Jesus. Jesus said that this was acceptable and not to hinder or block this person. Ultimately people either serve and give all credit and glory to Jesus or deny Him.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you, at times, view your faith as a faith comparison competition with others?
- Do you serve all people or just those that you are comfortable with and may look or act similar to you?
- Do you appreciate all of those who give Jesus glory and credit or just those in your local fellowship of believers, your church?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44