

THE GREATEST MAN IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Luke 9:37-62

Key Verse: 9:48

"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.'"

Study Questions:

1. What did Jesus and his disciples find when they came down the mountain? Why did Jesus lament? What did he do that made people marvel at the greatness of God? What did Jesus teach his disciples about God's purpose for him? (37-45)
2. Read verse 46. What does this argument reveal about the disciples' human ambition? Why were they like this? How did Jesus teach them true greatness? (47-48) What lessons can we learn from Jesus' words about true greatness? What does it mean that the least shall be greatest? (See also Mt 5:3,5; Jas 4:6; 1Co 15:9-10)
3. Read verses 49-50. How did John show his pettiness--and Jesus his greatness? What are some other examples of pettiness here? How is Jesus different? (50,51,55-56) Why is exclusiveness the mark of a petty man? Anger?
4. Read verses 57-62. What must we learn about the cost of following Jesus? How must one who would follow Jesus to greatness deal with his future security problem? What must be his priority? What kind of decision must he make?