

Weekly Bible Study for Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Discipleship #2 Confused Disciples Luke 9:37-50 by Jean Davies - January 2021

Three of Jesus' disciples are with Him having just descended the Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36). Peter, James and John have had **the** mountaintop experience, receiving a momentary revelation of the reality of who Jesus is in His glory: the fulfilment of the Law and Prophets; Emmanuel, God with us. As with all "mountaintop" experiences, they then return to the "valley" of everyday life and join the other disciples and the crowds who have come to meet Jesus.

Then, as Jesus continues to teach the requirements of true discipleship, all the disciples would be confronted by their own shortcomings and confused as He challenges and rejects their preconceived thoughts and ambitions. Glory for the disciples would be some way other than the way of the world.

Read LUKE 9:37-50; and ask The Lord to teach you personally.

Our study passage reveals the honesty of God's Word. Four brief scenarios show the disciples to be:

- 1 **Ineffective** - vs37-43a "... but they could not".
- 2 **Unperceptive** - vs43b-45 "...But they did not understand"; did not grasp it; ... afraid to ask.
- 3 **Proud** - vs46-48 "An argument started as to who would be the greatest".
- 4 **Censorious** - vs49-50 "...we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us".

The confused minds of the disciples may have included thoughts and questions such as: **Perhaps** the boy's father lacked faith and that is why we could not heal the boy! **Why** is Jesus being so controversial; we just do not understand or accept his teachings sometimes? **What** have I got myself into by following Jesus? I do more than most so my position in God's Kingdom should reflect that! Look at what I have given up! Don't I deserve it? **Who** do they think they are; don't they know that we are the "proper" followers of Jesus?

Can you or I sometimes see ourselves in any of these scenarios? What sometimes confuses me or you as a follower of Jesus? We might be asking: **Q1 Why** am I so ineffective in telling people about Jesus? **Q2 Why** is my prayer going unanswered? **Q3 How** can I be sure what Jesus wants me to think and do? **Q4 Why** have I been asked to do such a "lowly" job in church when I am capable of so much more; **why** am I being overlooked? **Q5 Why** do bad things happen to good people?" **Q6 What** other, perhaps more personal, questions would you pose to God?

When the anguished father in v38 begged Jesus to "look at my son, for he is my only child" it was out of love for his son - his healing, his renewal, his transformation. On the Mount of Transfiguration, it was a loving Father who declared to the disciples Peter, James and John "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him", and implying obedience. God the Father was pointing them to the Way of powerful, sacrificial and loving discipleship – "*Listen to him*". Try saying aloud these three words, placing emphasis on each word in turn. **Q7 What** impact does each individual word have on you?

Perhaps Romans 12 and especially vs 2 sums it up well "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will."

May God help us to "Listen to Him" through prayer, Scripture, His Holy Spirit, or each other as we continue in discipleship and encourage each other in faith. Amen.