



"Heading Into the Crowd"

Luke 9:37-45

Following Jesus always leads us to the places where the people who need Jesus are (37)

On the mountaintop, it was only Peter, James, John and Jesus. On the mountaintop, it was quiet and it was glorious. On the mountaintop, Jesus was shining in His glory and Moses and Elijah appeared to encourage Him. On the mountaintop, the disciples experienced and heard the voice of God in a powerful way. But Jesus wasn't interested in staying on the mountaintop. He headed back down the mountain with His disciples following after Him. He headed from the solitude and the quiet into the crowd and the chaos. Jesus led, and His disciples followed into the places where the people who need Jesus are, which wasn't on the mountaintop but in the valley below.

1. Imagine coming down from the mountain after just experiencing the transfiguration of Jesus and seeing Moses and Elijah. You look up and see the crowd coming. Do you want to deal with the crowd? Why or why not?
2. Share about a time that Jesus led you to where there were people who needed Him? Did you want to go?
3. Why is it that we often don't want to enter the crowd where people need Jesus?

Following Jesus leads us to encounter people with problems that only the power of Jesus can overcome (38-40)

As they entered the crowd, they definitely left the sanctuary of worship on the mountaintop and entered into the reality of the problem filled world that they lived in day-to-day. People were everywhere, and everywhere that there are people there are problems, including small problems, big problems and problems that no human on this earth can solve or overcome. But Jesus is not just human, He is also God. The disciples needed to learn that following Him will lead them to problems that they can't solve or overcome on their own. Just like the demon possessed boy that they couldn't heal. The disciples needed to learn that there was no problem that Jesus can't solve. The disciples needed to know that following Jesus means mountaintop moments and battles in the valley, and the disciples needed to know that Jesus is all that we need in either.

1. Why do you think it's important that we're told the disciples couldn't cast the demon out on their own?
2. What is a problem in your life or in the life of someone you know that is beyond your power to fix?
3. Take time to allow different people in the group to pray for the power of Jesus against those problems.

Following Jesus demands that we have faith in the power of Jesus to work through us (41)

Jesus' response is tough to hear. Who is he talking to: The disciples or the people or both? Most likely, Jesus is primarily



addressing His disciples. While He was on the mountaintop, they were obviously trying to operate on their own power. They needed a hard lesson in faith, and Jesus wanted them to learn it. Jesus wanted them to know that He expects and He demands that they have faith in His power. Jesus wanted them to know that through faith He could and would work through them.

1. Read Matthew 17:14-21 and discuss Jesus' response that's recorded in Matthew's account of this miracle.
2. What are the dangers in misinterpretation of what Jesus says about faith and prayer?
3. Read 1 John 5:14-15 and answer this question: What is the key to God's answer to our faith filled prayers?
4. Assess your faith in Jesus' power in the way that you pray.

Following Jesus should lead us to moments where we fall astonished at the majesty of God (42-43a)

Jesus did what none of His disciples could do on their own. Jesus cast out the demon from the boy and made him whole and well again. This miracle led the people and the disciples to see the majesty of God's power and grace in Jesus Christ. It led the disciples and the people to look to Jesus with awe and wonder at the power of God that was in Him. It was in the valley and not on the mountaintop, but it was still astonishing and it still led to worship! This is what should happen when Jesus' disciples don't stand still but keep on following Him.

1. His disciples wanted to stay on the mountaintop and build tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah, but if they had, they would have missed the miracle in the valley. What does this tell us about what should happen when we follow Jesus, regardless of whether we're where we want to be or not?
2. When was the last time that you witnessed Jesus' power at work in a way that made you fall astonished at the majesty of God?

Following Jesus brings important reminders that we are following Him on the way to the cross (43b-45)

While everyone was still standing around discussing with amazement this miracle and all that Jesus was doing, Jesus kept preparing His disciples to keep on moving ahead. He reminds His disciples that He's on a course to the cross. They don't fully understand what He's telling them simply because Jesus doesn't need them to fully understand at this time. That will come, but for now, He's just continuing to remind them and to teach them what self-denial and cross-bearing really are.

1. Jesus patiently continued to teach and prepare His disciples for their journey with Him to the cross. How is God still patient with us today in a similar way as we follow Jesus?
2. Why is this lesson in following Jesus so difficult to learn?
3. Read Galatians 2:20 and thank God for this process in your lives!