

Questions, Quotes and Notes

May 14, 2023

Luke 9:46-56: Keeping the Cross in Christianity

Pre-Sermon:

1. Read Luke 9:37-56
2. What does this passage say the disciples did not understand?

Sermon:

Instead of giving you questions to think about this week, I am going to ask you to pray. I wish I could preach this sermon better because I believe the truth of this message is critical and yet I am just a finite, limited, weak preacher. So we come again to God's Word depending completely on Him. Will you ask God to help you hear Him speak to you through His Word? There's something in this message that is absolutely life-transforming, and yet, very difficult for us to actually hear.

Notes:

This Sunday I want to show you:

1. How important it is that we keep the cross central in our discipleship
2. What happens when we don't

When I talk about keeping the cross central I mean:

1. The meaning of the cross
2. The pattern of the cross

If we are going to follow Jesus and help others follow Jesus we have to relentlessly focus on the cross. In Luke 9:46-56 Luke shows how important it is by giving three illustrations of what happens when we don't.

1. It impacts the way you think about yourself.
2. It impacts the way you relate to other believers.
3. And it impacts the way you feel toward unbelievers.

Cross References/Quotes:

1. "Too much of church history....has gotten trapped in a false dilemma. The dilemma between Atonement (Christ as Mediator) and conformity (Christ as example)."
2. "One, the biblical doctrine of penal substitutionary atonement is the most assailed, most controversial, and most assured result of recent work on the cross. Two, the biblical teaching on the imitation of the crucified Christ is the most neglected aspect of recent work on the New Testament message of the cross."
3. "The importance of self-sacrificial cross imitation as the primary response of his disciples to his unique self-sacrificial death."
4. "One cannot step into the footsteps of Jesus and head off in any other direction than the direction he took, and his footsteps lead to the cross, through the grave, and then on to glory."
5. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
6. 1 Corinthians 4:17
7. Philippians 2:1-5
8. Romans 15:1-3
9. 2 Corinthians 12:8-12
10. "But we might protest our churches have the cross of Christ at their heart. We take the cross of Christ very seriously. We read books about the cross. We preach the cross. But, "might it just be possible" and this is key, "to do all these things and not be shaped at a profound level by the theology of the cross?"

After Sermon:

1. What was the message basically about?
2. How significantly does the cross shape the way you think about life?
3. Be honest. Are you deliberately seeking to imitate the crucified Christ in your approach to life? How might you think and feel differently if you did?
4. Evaluate yourself in light of the three things that happen when someone does not have the cross at the center?
5. Is there anything you need to repent of? Anything you need to believe? Any ways your thinking needs to change?