

Imperfect Saints

Luke 9:46-50 Sunday AM, July 6, 2025

Prelude – Scripture: Luke 9:37-50 (NASB95) On the next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him. 38 And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, “Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only boy, 39 and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming at the mouth; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him as it leaves. 40 “I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not.” 41 And Jesus answered and said, “You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.” 42 While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father. 43 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. But while everyone was marveling at all that He was doing, He said to His disciples, 44 “Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.” 45 But they did not understand this statement, and it was concealed from them so that they would not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this statement. 46 An argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest. 47 But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side, 48 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.” 49 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.” 50 But Jesus said to him, “Do not hinder him; for he who is not against you is for you.”

Who IS Jesus? So much to contemplate in the episodes and teaching from Jesus recorded in Luke’s gospel, most recently contemplating the glory of God seen on the Mount of Transfiguration. Peter, James, and John saw something few would ever see down here on earth. They went with Jesus up the mountain to pray, fell asleep, and woke to see GLORY—Jesus’ face and clothes shone as did Moses and Elijah, **who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.** We have tradition that shows reverence for this—let’s build booths! Good for remembering traditions and seeking to show honor for such a powerful experience of the glory of God, but you must humble yourselves farther than your proposed worship—**34 While he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!”** And listen they did, for they had much to learn and they desired to be under His yoke learning from Him. They came down the mountain to be greeted by a large crowd. A man, desperate for his son shouts to Jesus for help. We heard a heartbreaking spectacle describing the effects of sin and the demon’s control on this boy—throwing him to the ground, thrashing—soul and body tortured and in turmoil. Your disciples could not help . . . Jesus rebuked the spirit, and the boy was healed/freed. Church worship the power of God over all that would oppose the peace and order of His holy rule and worship.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Our Sovereign God**

It is easy to acknowledge sovereignty when God’s actions make sense and lead to what seems good. But there is still more to learn. **But while everyone was marveling at all that He was doing, He said to His disciples, 44 “Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.” 45 But they did not understand this statement, and it was concealed from them so that they would not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this statement.** Lack of understanding includes all of us and it is NOT innocuous. It leaves us focused elsewhere valuing the wrong things. For example, Jesus showed glorious power as He cared for hurting souls. While His disciples marveled, Jesus talked of suffering and death, and His disciples got into an argument **as to which of them might be the greatest.** We rightfully cringe at this seeming childish self absorption, but in the face of God’s glory, feel the weight of sin—souls NOT SATISFIED with the glory of God, NOT willing for Him to be in the center—leaving us in the center constantly in arguments about who is the greatest/what is the greatest priority as every part of our being clamors for significance apart from the glory of God. Feel the weight of the problem.

***Hymn #436: Whiter Than Snow *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Scripture: Numbers 12:1–16** (NASB95) Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of

the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman); 2 and they said, “Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?” And the LORD heard it. 3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.) 4 Suddenly the LORD said to Moses and Aaron and to Miriam, “You three come out to the tent of meeting.” So the three of them came out. 5 Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the doorway of the tent, and He called Aaron and Miriam. When they had both come forward, 6 He said, “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream. 7 “Not so, with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household; 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, Even openly, and not in dark sayings, And he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant, against Moses?” 9 So the anger of the LORD burned against them and He departed. 10 But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, as white as snow. As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she was leprous. 11 Then Aaron said to Moses, “Oh, my lord, I beg you, do not account this sin to us, in which we have acted foolishly and in which we have sinned. 12 “Oh, do not let her be like one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes from his mother’s womb!” 13 Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, “O God, heal her, I pray!” 14 But the LORD said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, would she not bear her shame for seven days? Let her be shut up for seven days outside the camp, and afterward she may be received again.” 15 So Miriam was shut up outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until Miriam was received again. 16 Afterward, however, the people moved out from Hazeroth and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

Offering: *Doxology:

Jesus doesn’t just leave them stinging under rebuke, but teaches through rebuke. If you receive this child, you receive Me. THIS is what will make you great. Don’t just change your behavior, change your heart’s desires, your values—not merely toward this child (least of these—little benefit for you with them, more work), but toward the One who said this is more valuable. Master, we saw one cast out demons apart from us. I’ll deal with anything out of line. You will have to deal with those out of line, but get it straight, look at ME—I AM the center, not your sense of justice or desire to want things RIGHT. Shudder at how quickly Aaron and Miriam went from honoring the Lord to opposing the Lord as they clamored for position with Moses. As pastor prepares to preach, ask God to help you set your heart in the direction of this son so your life shows not merely piety, morality, or kindness, but Jesus as one you are looking at—loving, following, learning of . . . Give Me Jesus

***Hymn #443: Give Me Jesus**

Message: “Imperfect Saints” Luke 9:46-50

***Hymn #259: Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

The Lord’s Table

Communion—Fellowship with a holy God. To be brought back to this One who continues to teach, to redirect our focus from lesser means of following Him to look at Jesus Himself and yield as subjects—in remembrance of Me. In Christ Alone. Don’t let this familiar modern hymn fade from being the marching cry of your redeemed life. THIS must pulse at the center.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): In Christ Alone**

***Prayer**