

Luke 9:37-50

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹ And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. ⁴⁰ And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹ Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

But while they were all marvelling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men." ⁴⁵ But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

⁴⁶ An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put 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 he who is least among you all is the one who is great."

⁴⁹ John answered, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us." ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you."



Discussion questions

'Failure is succeeding at things that don't matter.'
What do you make of this? What would it look like for you to pursue Jesus' version of success?

CERTAIN IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

When we're not getting anywhere

- Success and Failure

Lessons in Jesus' school of success:

1- Jesus succeeds where we fail (v37-43a)

- Israel's failure¹
- Our failure
- Jesus' success

2- Jesus chooses 'failure' (v43b-45)

- Jesus will look like he's failed
- The disciples don't understand²

3- 'Failure' is the way to succeed (v46-48)

4- Accept those who don't look successful (v47-50)

- The child (v47-48)
- The other disciple (v49-50)

¹ Deut 31:20, 32:23, 36, 43

² Isaiah 6:9-10, Luke 8:10