

"FIRE AND DISCIPLESHIP"

Luke 9:51-56

Iran: Shot down plane from Ukraine – killing 176. Thought it was the enemy/not. Caused huge trouble/arrests. We can fire by mistake.

I. MISUNDERSTANDING THE MINISTRY

A. The disciples thought ministry was about them

1. How they were viewed/received/treated: **V53** but they did not receive him...
2. They're like us: We make ministry be about our own egos
 - a. We can look at people through the lens of our own ego (most often b/c of insecurity)
 1. Are you not receiving/appreciating/cooperating with me? Are you disrespecting me?
3. A common reaction – is to want to burn people!
 - a. **V54** And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"
 1. Make them pay/punish them/get rid of them – as an example for everyone else!
 - b. **V54** Just as Elijah did...we read the Bible – and all we see is justification for our own desires!

B. Jesus says this approach doesn't work well in ministry

1. **You wind up hurting people:** All these people would never have another chance if they had their way
2. **You wind up limiting your effectiveness:**
 - a. Someone asked PM: Why are there so many small churches? B/C we have so many small Pastors!
 1. No room for people with problems/people not exactly like us/people who don't respond correctly
 - b. The larger your heart – the larger your ministry can become
3. You wind up damaging the testimony of Jesus Christ: *Is that what Christians are like? The Fellowship is like?*

II. DISCIPLESHIP BLIND SPOTS

A. The disciples thought they were doing a wonderful thing – Jesus is going to be so pleased with us!

1. They had no clue they were offending Jesus – they were revealing their own hearts
 - a. **V55** But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of."
2. Shows us the issue of blind spots: We all have areas of heart/character we are blind to
 - a. **Psalm 19:12** Who can understand his errors? cleanse me from secret faults. (things I am unaware of)
 1. Not speaking of B.O. or spinach in the teeth: Proud/selfish/ugly hearts that will hurt people

B. The point of the discipleship process is to reveal – so you can be prepared for ministry

1. You can try and hide what you are – God won't let you! Life reveals! Ministry reveals!
 - a. God reveals so we can get rid of what shouldn't be in us – and add what is missing in us
2. This is why you need a Pastor – you cannot disciple yourself
 - a. You need someone to show you the truth about yourself – so you can change and be prepared
3. Some don't want to be exposed/revealed (they approach life on the basis of ego) Destructive!
 - a. But a Pastor exposes – to help you! B/C he loves you!
 1. **Proverbs 27:5-6** Open rebuke is better than secret love. ⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

III. DISCIPLESHIP SPIRIT

A. Jesus connects discipleship to a spirit

1. **V55** But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of."
 - a. Not simply information learned – but a spirit imparted and caught!
2. **What motivates you:** What you love/what you are passionate about
3. **How you view people:** *How does your Pastor speak to people? How does he speak about people?*
 - a. **V56** For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.
 1. Do you view people as stupid? Do you view them as a bother? As the enemy? Do you care?
4. **How you react to situations:**
 - a. **V56** For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.
 1. Don't take it personal – move on: Carry on with the mission
5. Do you have your Pastor's spirit? Do you want your Pastor's spirit?
 - a. You need to honestly examine yourself b. You need to observe c. You need to cry out to God for it