

In ministry its easy to take other peoples response to us very personal - causes us to come to wrong conclusions.

Luke 9:51-56—51 When the time was coming near for Jesus to depart, he was determined to go to Jerusalem. **52** He sent some messengers ahead of him, who went into a town in Samaria to make everything ready for him. **53** But the people there would not welcome him, because he was set on going to Jerusalem. **54** When James and John, followers of Jesus, saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven and destroy those people?" **55** But Jesus turned and scolded them. And Jesus said, "You don't know what kind of spirit you belong to. **56** The Son of Man did not come to destroy the souls of people but to save them." Then they went to another town.

I. WHEN PEOPLE REJECT US

- A. Nature of ministry: Not everyone will respond the same way when presented with the gospel
 - 1. Why do people reject us: **Reality of sin**
 - a) it brings temporary pleasure and blinds people to their true condition

Hebrews 11:25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
b) Reality is people sin because it feels good/ satisfies the flesh / gets them high or drunk

- 2. 2nd reason: **Stubbornness and pride**

Acts 7:51 "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

- a) In pride people can reject truth because their sin is wicked and man will always try and justify their sinful behavior
- 3. Finally: **Guilt and shame**
 - a) The guilt and shame sin can bring can cause people to feel they don't deserve forgiveness or love

Mark 1:41 Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."

- B. Difficult realities of evangelism - not everyone will receive the message

John 6:65—66—65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." **66** From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

- 1. This can be incredible frustrating **for us**
 - a) If people don't respond the way they should than I must be doing something wrong

Luke 9:52 He sent some messengers ahead of him, who went into a town in Samaria to make everything ready for him. **53** But the people there would not welcome him, because he was set on going to Jerusalem.
b) Jesus I did what you said and its not working

- 2. We can assume the worst about all people

Luke 9:54 When James and John, followers of Jesus, saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven and destroy those people?"

- a) Seen disciples write people off / come to wild conclusions
- 3. Much of ministry will involve God working on our heart attitudes

Luke 9:55 But Jesus turned and scolded them. And Jesus said, "You don't know what kind of spirit you belong to
a) Interesting here: Jesus deals with the **disciples reaction to rejection** - rather than chastising the people

II. DEALING WITH THE HEART

- A. The deeper issue: The wrong spirit towards people
 - 1. There are issues inside us that we are **not aware of**
 - a) Jesus shows James and John a something profound: What is inside of you

Luke 9:55 But Jesus turned and scolded them. And Jesus said, "You don't know what kind of spirit you belong to.
b) What is at work in your heart is not right

- 2. Who you are on the inside will eventually be shown on the outside
 - a) Old saying - you minister who you are / you will communicate what's inside you. For good or bad
- 3. Pride emotion can dominate a mans ministry
 - a) *Samaritans rejecting Jesus and the Disciples - that makes us look bad/how dare you make me look bad.*
 - b) Many men process life through the lens of pride and insecurity - everything is calculated, controlled and driven by our fragile ego.

- B. The Result James and John decided - **they need to die** / IOW these people do not deserve salvation Call down fire?
 - 1. We call down fire by **exclusion**: only reach certain types of people
 - a) Often people that look like us "too rich looking, too poor looking, too young, too old"
 - b) Manifests into writing people off - our text Samaritans - entire group of people that needed the gospel
 - (1) What demographics or people groups go unreached in our community? In your neighborhood? In our church?
 - 2. We call down fire by **arguing or fighting with sinners/ religious people**:

- a) Mistake is made when we feel we can argue someone into salvation- using apologetics to win the debate - often times this never results an effective witness or the persons salvation
- 3. We call down fire by giving a **false idea of how Jesus views people**
 - a) You are a reflection of who Jesus is - IOW how I feel about you is how Jesus feels about you
 - b) Disciples ultimately saying - Jesus does not want to save you but wants to kill you
- 4. When Pride and Ego drive our lives - we make our image the most important thing in life - not Jesus
 - a) Disciples reaction to their pride getting hurt - death

III. SAVING SOULS

- A. Remember who your are in Christ: dealing with our own insecurities
 - 1. Our worth and value must come from Jesus - not people reactions to us

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

- 2. We can deal with heart issues now
 - a) PG has said - deal with your insecurities now/ deal with your rejection issues now
- 3. Gratitude can protect us from pride
 - a) I don't want to make ministry all about my ego - anything good I have in my life is the direct result of God's grace and mercy upon me
 - b) Gratitude has to be vocalized - what you s

- B. Remember our purpose: Ministry is all about people

Luke 9:56 The Son of Man did not come to destroy the souls of people but to save them." Then they went to another town.

- 1. People can reject you: They are still a soul / Jesus thought they were worth dying for
 - a) Ask God to give you a love for people - see them the way God sees them
- 2. The results in evangelism are left to God
 - a) We cannot save people- cannot strong arm them into heaven - God has to do that
- 3. God is smarter than you and me
 - a) If the Gospel is preached / we spread God's message in love / the HS is able to convict and draw to salvation long after we are gone

- C. Move along

Luke 9:56 The Son of Man did not come to destroy the souls of people but to save them." Then they went to another town

- 1. Have to factor this into your thinking in life: Move along
 - a) There will always be another outreach, another person, another opportunity
 - b) Our text says they moved along to another town
- 2. IOW ministry and the purpose of the kingdom of God cannot stop because someone reacted in a way you didn't like
- 3. God is gracious to us even if we make mistakes in ministry
 - a) James and John make a bone headed mistake and yet Jesus does not condemn them to hell for it - learn the lesson and move on to another town / another opportunity for ministry / another opportunity to help someone else