

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Halftime Adjustments

Passage: Luke 9:37-50 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: Living the paradox of the Kingdom of Christ demands our consistent adjustment away from the normal life principles of this world.

I. Adjusted understanding of dependence (9:37-43)

- The disciples were apparently relying on their own ability or assumption to combat this evil.
- It could also be that they tried, failed and simply quit instead of seeking help in prayer.
- The principle of the world is to master a skill/subject in order to rely less on instructors.
- The paradox of the Kingdom is to become more and more faithfully dependent upon the King.

II. Adjusted expectation of what lies ahead (9:43-45)

- While the crowds continue to marvel, the disciples need be refocused on Jesus' imminent suffering.
- The principle of the world is self-preservation and protection.
- The paradox of the Kingdom is to expect and embrace betrayal and suffering.

III. Adjusted evaluation of greatness & promotion (9:46-48)

- The disciples interested in who would qualify for the best roles in the future kingdom.
- The principle of the world evaluates greatness in terms of power, intellect, talent, pedigree, and fortune.
- The paradox of the Kingdom evaluates greatness in terms humble service to the least significant.

IV. Adjusted acceptance of other servants (9:49-50)

- The disciples thought they should oppose anyone ministering in Jesus' name not affiliated with them.
- The principle of the world promotes unbridled competition and the removal of rivals.
- The paradox of the Kingdom celebrates the efforts of all servants of the King

V. Kingdom Adjustments for Today:

- How faithful are you based on your daily dependence on Jesus?
- How much do you expect God to provide you with earthly happiness?
- How are you tangibly serving the insignificant around you in the name of Jesus?
- Who in the faith do you need to stop competing with and begin celebrating?