

Luke 9:46-62 Bible Study

1. “Salvation is the free gift of God – that costs you everything”. Do you agree or disagree? Discuss.

2. **Read Luke 9:46-48.** Remember the context; vv43-45, also vv21-25. What does the disciples’ argument reveal about them at this stage? What point does Jesus make here?

*They still think in worldly terms or greatness. Real greatness that’s connected with Jesus and God the Father will barely be noticed in our world because it will be seen among the ‘nobodies’ in acts of humble service and friendship **for Jesus’ sake.***

3. Can you think of examples of this in our own context? (*both looking for the wrong greatness, and examples of true greatness*).

4. **Read Luke 9:49-50.** Can you see a connection between this incident and the one just before it (vv46-48)?

The disciples still have the wrong idea about being with Jesus – they think there is some kind of status (or greatness) because they are part of his ‘inner circle’. But in God’s kingdom there are no unimportant ones, none who are more ‘in’ than others.

5. **Read Luke 9:51-56.** Why do James & John want to call down Judgment? What do they have right? What do they have wrong? (Look back to 3:9, 16, 17 and ahead to 12:49)

Verse 48 – the Samaritans refuse to welcome God! This is the reason judgement is coming. John the Baptist and Jesus speak of coming judgement. The disciples have that right. But their timing is wrong – it’s not yet the time for judgment – it’s the time of invitation. God’s judgement will fall, but not yet, and ultimately it will fall on Jesus himself. The disciples themselves will soon desert Jesus – should God’s fire fall on them too? Praise God for the patience and mercy of Jesus!

Note how often the disciples, who were the primary eyewitnesses Luke would have spoken to (Luke 1:1-4), are shown in a negative light. I find this a trademark of authenticity. If someone was making this up, the key sources would surely be made to look better! But the one who shines out alongside their failings is the Lord Jesus.

6. **Read Luke 9:57-62.** Is Jesus discouraging these three people from becoming his followers?

7. *No – he never says “don’t follow” – but he wants them to be clear that following him is no simple thing.*

8. What principles can we learn here about following Jesus?

It means this world is no longer our ‘home’ (v58) – at least in a permanent or spiritual sense; It means proclaiming the kingdom of God is to be our chief purpose in life (v60); It means we are not to have one foot in our old way of life where we are lord and one foot in the new life where Jesus is Lord.

9. If someone came to you as eager as the three people in vv57-62 do you think you would make as clear to them what following Jesus means? Why? Why not?