Sermon Notes for July 16, 2017

Listen to Jesus


Introduction

“This is my son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”

“Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you.”

This is a text that stresses our need to listen.

“Will You Not Listen?” by Michael Card

We need to learn about:

I. His power and our weakness. Verses 37-43a

This father was desperate. His son was possessed by an evil spirit that was destroying his life. The father brought his son to the disciples, but they were unable to heal him.

Why was that?

- “Because you have so little faith.” Matthew 17:19
- “This kind can only come out by prayer.” Mark 9:29

What we see in Luke is Jesus’ disappointment. “O unbelieving and perverse generation…” Jesus rebuked the evil spirit and healed the boy physically and spiritually and restored him to his father.

The people were amazed at the greatness of God.

The disciples learned a valuable lesson in ministry. “Apart from Jesus we can do nothing.”

“Sometimes the greatest barrier to being usable is the very fact that God has used you.” Ron Dunn

Where it shows up is in our lack of prayer.

II. His suffering and our ignorance. Verses 43b-45

This is the second prediction of Jesus’ suffering.

Don’t be surprised by my suffering. This is all part of God’s perfect plan.
The disciples didn’t understand what this meant and they were afraid to ask.

Sometimes we don’t understand God’s plan either.

God comes to us and says trust me.

- ‘And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.’ Romans 8:28
- “If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” Romans 8:31-32

III. His greatness and our pride. Verses 46-50

The disciples are still thinking about greatness from a worldly point of view.

Jesus took a little child and had him stand beside him. “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me...For he who is least among you all – he is the greatest.”

Jesus was teaching the disciples two very important lessons about ministry.

- Everyone has value to God.
- Everyone can minister. (Everyone who knows Jesus.)

The disciples were letting pride get in the way of ministry.

Conclusion

Listen to Jesus!

- Spend time with Jesus in his word and prayer.
- Consider his suffering and trust him when life is hard and you don’t understand why.
- Follow his example. True greatness is not measured by status or possessions. True greatness is found in serving God and others.