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Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Luke 9:43b - 62

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: Luke 9:43b-62

Sermon Summary:

Adjustments are a part of life. Whether it's our parents, older siblings, teachers or coaches, in order to keep growing well, & for us to reach maturity we all need others to speak into our lives. Sometimes they can be matters of common sense which we can embrace, & others can feel harsh as we hear them. Either way, if we learn from them we are better for doing so. Jesus was no different with his disciples. They didn't understand all of what he said, so it took them a while to catch on. Often they answered or responded to situations in line with their old habits & commonly-understood concepts. Time & time again, Jesus took the opportunity to adjust them for their future progress. We are no different today as we follow Jesus. We hear from him. Make adjustments. And move forward under new light & understanding.

Discussion:

1. Starting at Luke 9:33, track the number of mistakes that Jesus' disciples make & get adjusted by either God or Jesus. Why do you think they needed these adjustments?
2. 9:51 begins the longest section in Luke's Gospel (9:51-19:44). Which words are we meant to pay attention to in this verse that point to Jesus' forward movement?

3. Read 2 Kings 1:1-17. In the Samaritan village incident (vv. 52-55), James & John want to duplicate Elijah's actions. Why does Jesus rebuke them? Did they echo the nature of Jesus' ministry so far with their intended action?
4. How should Christians respond to those who reject the Gospel when it's spoken to them? Use the Bock quote to guide you: *"Clearly there is rejection of the gospel today as there was in Jesus' day. Such rejection is hard to take. But Jesus' refusal to execute judgment is a consistent pattern for ministry. Jesus is highlighting that the current era of his ministry is a period of **opportunity & invitation**. Jesus does speak openly of judgment, but it will occur in the era to come (9:26; 12:8-10; 17:26-37; 21:25)...The opportunity to respond to the offer of the gospel remains open until judgment comes. To be a servant of the gospel is not to highlight judgment or long for execution, but to seek to save lives as long as God allows."*
5. In verses 57-62, the key word that Jesus tells the 3 prospective disciples is "NO." When we follow Jesus as his disciples, we should be asking him about whether we should do something or not. If we hear "NO" how should we respond? Why is it so difficult to respond appropriately when Jesus' plans are different from ours?
6. Which areas of your life would you prefer to have Jesus keep his thoughts to himself?

End with Prayer.

1. Pray for our willingness to allow Jesus to speak into all areas of our life.
2. Pray for one another's concerns.