



Dr. Mike McNeff
Magnolia Baptist Church
Nov. 19, 2023

Focus Question

What are some principles related to serving Jesus are evident in this story of his disciples' failure.

1. **Spiritual mountaintop experiences are _____, but do not _____.**
Luke 9:37

2. **People are not spiritual _____.**
Luke 9:38-39
Mk. 10:21

3. **Ministry is not accomplished through _____ or _____ but through _____.**
Luke 9:40-41

4. **Jesus supplies the _____.**
Luke 9:42-43
Zech. 4:6

5. **The adulation of people cannot be _____.**
Luke 9:43-45

Application questions:

Which of these ministry principles resonate with you? Which one(s) do you need to pay the closest attention to?

Discussion Questions

1. Read Luke 9:37-45. Where does God stop you? Why do you think he stops you there?
2. What are some “mountaintop” spiritual experiences you have had in the past? What can be helpful about having a very meaningful spiritual experience while you are away from your normal routine? What can be a problem with these experiences?
3. Have you ever been treated like a “project” by someone? How did this make you feel? How can we avoid treating people like spiritual projects? Read Mark 10:17-22. Discuss the significance of verse 21 and how that changed the whole encounter between Jesus and the young man.
4. What is a ministry technique or formula? What can be the danger of relying too heavily on these? Can you think of an example when you think you were relying too heavily on a technique or formula? What were the results? Read 2Cor. 4:1-2. What are examples of disgraceful, underhanded or cunning ways you have seen ministry done? What can keep us from this?
5. When have you truly seen the power of Jesus in a ministry you have been involved with? What was wonderful about it?
6. When have you been too reliant upon the approval of others when you have served Jesus? What does this do to your soul? How does it affect your service? How can you tell the difference between the approval of God and the approval of people? Can they sometimes be the same?