

## Message Notes

Who will be the greatest?

## Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

**Introduction** - "So, are you done yet?"

### Today's Message: Luke 9:37-50 Who will be the greatest?

Last week: The Transfiguration  
2 Peter 1:16-18

#### Episode 1: "O faithless generation..."

Luke 9:37-43a

A lesson on faithlessness

Mark 9:21-24; Hebrews 11:1-2, 6,  
13-16, 39-40

Only by prayer?

#### Episode 2: "Let these words sink into your ears..."

Luke 9:43b-45

A lesson on idolatry

#### Episode 3: "Whoever receives this child..."

Luke 9:46-48

A lesson on pride

#### Episode 4: "The one who is not against you is for you..."

Luke 9:49-50

A lesson on rivalry

### Gospel Application

So, are you done yet?

#### Luke 9:37-50

37 The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. 38 A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. 39 A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. 40 I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not." 41 "You unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." 42 Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. 43 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, 44 "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men." 45 But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it. 46 An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. 47 Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. 48 Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest." 49 "Master," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us." 50 "Do not stop him," Jesus said, "for whoever is not against you is for you."

# The summer of sabbaticals







**Steve Treichler**

July 4 at 3:32pm · Twitter · 

Happy Birthday to me!! <http://t.co/XqxVTMdJBm>



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**Tim Johnson** Where did you get a bottle of BCS?!

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The Gospel of  
**LUKE**

The King and His Kingdom  
Luke 3:21 to Luke 9:50

## 2 Peter 1:16-18

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

17 He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

**This Week's Message:**  
*Who will be the greatest?*  
Luke 9:37-50

## Luke 9:37-50

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Luke 9:37-43a

*A lesson on faithlessness*

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## Deuteronomy 32:4-5

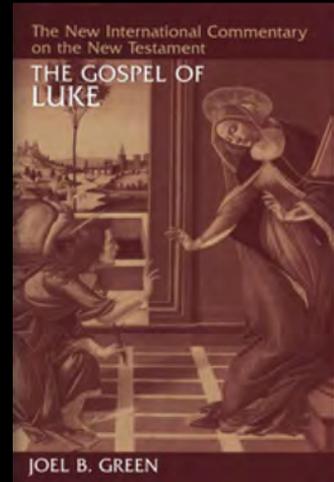
4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect,  
and all his ways are just.

A faithful God who does no wrong,  
upright and just is he.

5 They are corrupt and not his children;  
to their shame they are a warped and crooked  
generation.

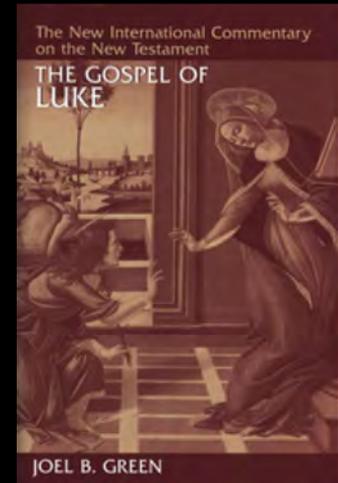
In the Lukan text, Jesus seems deliberately to have shaped his indictment of the disciples – first, drawing on OT language used to depict the state of God’s people on the Exodus journey so as to interpret the condition of his disciples as they begin the journey (“exodus,” v 31) to Jerusalem; and second by using the particular language of “faithlessness,” attested already in the Deuteronomistic co-text and much more suitable to Lukan concerns.

~Joel Green, New International Commentary  
of the New Testament , The Gospel of Luke



Jesus is already anticipating his execution (9:22, 44), after which his followers will share responsibility in the divine mission, and they are in a deplorable state of readiness.

~Joel Green, New International Commentary of the New Testament , The Gospel of Luke



# Episode 1: “O faithless generation...”

Luke 9:37-43a

*A lesson on faithlessness*

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6

1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for...6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

# Episode 1: “O faithless generation...”

Luke 9:37-43a

*A lesson on faithlessness*

Hebrews 11:13, 16

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth...16 Instead, they were longing for a better country – a heavenly one.

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Luke 9:43b-45

*A lesson on idolatry*

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**Episode 2: “Let these words sink into  
your ears...”**

**Luke 9:43b-45**

*A lesson on idolatry*

You're not struggling with God.

# Episode 3: “Whoever receives this child...”

Luke 9:46-48

*A lesson on pride*

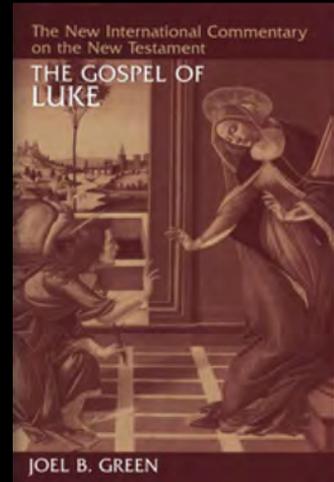
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“To welcome” people would be to extend to them the honor of hospitality, to regard them as guests (cf. 7:44–46), but one would only welcome a social equal or one whose honor was above one’s own. Children, whose place of social residence was defined at the bottom of the ladder of esteem, might be called upon to perform acts of hospitality (e.g., washing the feet of a guest), but normally they would not themselves be the recipients of honorable behavior.

~Joel Green, New International Commentary  
of the New Testament , The Gospel of Luke





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# Episode 4: “The one is not against you is for you...”

Luke 9:49-50

*A lesson on rivalry*

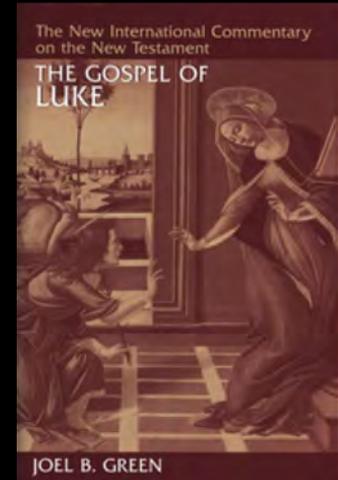
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Jesus had effectively negated conventional issues of status, yet John and his companions had operated within those conventions in order to deny this “outsider” permission to work in Jesus’ name. That is, they had engaged in boundary-making on the basis of conventional notions of perceived honor. He did not belong to the community around Jesus, so his behavior was disallowed.

~Joel Green, New International Commentary  
of the New Testament , The Gospel of Luke



# Episode 4: “The one is not against you is for you...”

Luke 9:49-50

*A lesson on rivalry*

In your own life

# Episode 4: “The one is not against you is for you...”

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*A lesson on rivalry*

In your own life

In the life of Hope Community

**Episode 1:** *A lesson on faithlessness*

**Episode 2:** *A lesson on idolatry*

**Episode 3:** *A lesson on pride*

**Episode 4:** *A lesson on rivalry*

# Gospel Application

*So, are you done yet?*