

Jesus Says...

Luke 9:46-50

What Greatness Is

*Do not succumb to the
seductive sin of self-importance!*

What Greatness Is – Luke 9:46-50

Context and Setting

- No longer on the mountain top!
- Mountain bottom realities:
 - Vs. 37-43 unable to heal a demon-possessed child
 - Vs. 43-45 incapable of comprehending the cross
 - Vs. 46-50 consumed with the sin of self-importance
 - Vs. 51-56 prepared to call down fire from heaven

What Greatness Is – Luke 9:46-50

Context and Setting

Who Is The Greatest (vs. 46)

- An argument arose among them...
(see Mark 9:33-34)
- Which of them would be the *greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven*?
- While Jesus was preoccupied with the shadow of the cross they were consumed with anticipation of their own power and glory!
 - See Mark 10:32-38 & Matt 20:17-21

What Greatness Is – Luke 9:46-50

Context and Setting

Who Is The Greatest (vs. 46)

The Child At Jesus' Side (vs. 47-48)

- Jesus' gentle, gracious, patient rebuke...
- The model of greatness in the kingdom: a little child!
 - Small, unimpressive, vulnerable; negligible
 - Matt 18:3,4 – become little like this child
 - Receiving a child in my name
 - *to welcome* is to care for, to 'embrace'
 - See Luke 18:15-17; I Cor 1; John 13
 - Embracing and caring for one of these is to embrace and care for both Me and My Father!

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Context and Setting

Who Is The Greatest (vs. 46)

The Child At Jesus' Side (vs. 47-48)

When Others Succeed... (vs. 49-50)

- John's conscience may have been softened...
- Another had succeeded where they had failed!
(see Luke 9:39-40)
- Beware the seductive sin of self-importance

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Context and Setting

Who Is The Greatest (vs. 46)

The Child At Jesus' Side (vs. 47-48)

When Others Succeed... (vs. 49-50)

A final thought about the sin of self-importance

Note the difference between **dogs** and **cats**!

The master pets his dog and the dog wags its tail and thinks, 'He must be God.'

The master pets his cat and the cat purrs, shuts its eyes, and thinks to himself, 'I must be God.'