

Study Guide for March 11th, 2001. Following Jesus: Confronting the Sins of Immaturity - Luke 9:37-50.

1. Recall something you did as a teenager that now you reflect on and say, "How could I have been so **immature** as to have done that?"

In Luke 9:37-50, four short incidents are brought together which highlight the disciples' **failure**. Learning to follow Jesus is a process of successes and failures. May we, like the disciples, learn from our mistakes.

2. The Failure to deliver service. (Luke 9:37-43a)
 - A. Describe the man's need, condition, and expectation in bringing his son to Jesus' disciples.
 - B. When have you been in a similar predicament?
 - C. Why do you think the disciples, who had successfully cast out demons earlier (Luke 9:1-6), failed in this instance? (see Mark 9:28-29)
 - D. What attitudes are expressed in Jesus' words (vs. 41)? To whom are they directed? To what degree do you think they apply today?
3. The Failure to understand or even to ask. (Luke 9:43b-45)
 - A. How would you phrase the appeal Jesus makes in vs. 44a? How well do you listen to Jesus?
 - B. In vs. 44b, Jesus repeats the prediction of his passion (see Luke 9:22). How do the disciples react?
 - C. What should be our response when faced with troubling matters? (see II Tim. 2:7 & James 1:5)
4. The Failure to value the lowly. (Luke 9:46-48)
 - A. What were the disciples arguing about?
 - B. How does Jesus redefine greatness?
 - C. In light of Jesus' teaching here, what advice would you give to someone who wants to become **great** today?
5. The Failure to accept differences. (Luke 9:49-50)
 - A. What motivated John and the other disciples to stop the man? (recall 9:37-40)
 - B. What is Jesus' response to John? (see vs. 50)
 - C. What caution does this passage give us as we view the work of other churches and Christians?
6. The Apostle Paul said, "... Become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Review these four encounters between Jesus and his disciples and place a label for the sin exposed in each instance. Which apply to you? How, by Christ's power, can you begin to overcome them?