

I. Lesson one: A lack of power (v. 37-43a)

A. They were being self-sufficient

B. They were lacking in faith

“Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘move from here to there and it will be done.’ Nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:20)

C. They were negligent in prayer

“This kind can only come out by prayer.” (Mark 9:29)

D. They were struggling to understand Christ’s power

II. Lesson two: A lack of understanding (v. 43b-45)

A. Jesus’ plan did not meet with their expectations

B. They needed to understand Jesus’ true mission

III. Lesson three: A lack of unity (v. 46-48)

A. They were filled with pride

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)

B. They were motivated by jealousy

C. They lacked a servant spirit

D. They needed to serve with a humble spirit

“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” (Matthew 20:26)

IV. Lesson four: A lack of acceptance (v. 49-50)

A. They thought they had a monopoly on ministry

“But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” (Numbers 11:29)

B. They were jealous at the success of others

“But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.” (Philippians 1:18)

C. They suspected people not of their group

V. Lesson five: A lack of compassion (v. 51-56)

A. They misunderstood who was the enemy

B. They misunderstood the love of God

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)