



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of July 10, 2022

*Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.*

### **Sermon Text: Luke 9:49-56**

***49 John answered, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us." 50 But Jesus said to him, "Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you." 51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 And they went on to another village.***

### **Summary**

Although the disciples rightly recognized Jesus to be the Messiah, their faith still lacked depth. Pride, both individually and collectively, contributed to the disciples ongoing failure to comprehend Jesus' true mission on earth. Jesus patiently instructs and rebukes His disciples in order to help them understand that He did not come to establish an earthly kingdom through violence and power. Rather He came to die and give His life, as a ransom for those enslaved by their sin. The disciples may have thought they would become an exclusive group of leaders in a new world order, to mete out justice on those who rejected Jesus. However, they would soon learn that a disciple is not above his teacher and that they too would one day follow their Messiah's path of suffering and self-sacrifice.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What is "group pride"? In our sermon we heard that "spiritual pride" is normal pride with religious make-up. What should church members understand about Jesus Christ and the Gospel to combat and prevent "spiritual pride"?
2. Is it always wrong for churches to judge another church? How would you define doctrinal indifference and why is it dangerous?
3. In this week's passage, James and John are outraged that the Samaritans would reject Jesus. As a Christian, have you ever felt this sense of outrage? Explain.

4. In their anger, what did James and John ask Jesus' permission to do? What does this request reveal about James' and John's faith? What does it reveal about their understanding of Jesus' mission on earth?
  
5. From the moment of His birth until the day of His death, the Son of God was rejected and despised by mankind. Yet throughout His life, Jesus' face was set towards Jerusalem - He understood, accepted, and was determined to go to the cross. As a Christian, how does this encourage you in your faith?