

Jesus Is My Relationship Coach
Luke 9:46-50

At some point in life, everyone faces relational problems. All of us. Even the disciples experienced “an argument” about who of them would be the greatest. It matters not whether or not your relational problems are with someone you love, a peer, or simply a friend, *the best advice you’ll get is from Jesus.*

I. Jesus tells me the *greatest* human is the one who *considers* himself least (v. 48).

When the argument erupted among the disciples, Jesus finds a “child” and brings him to His side. “Whoever receives this child in my name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great.” (Luke 9:48).

A. The dispute was about who would be second-in-command to Jesus.

The argument was not about rewards in heaven, or who is the greatest apostle, teacher, or preacher of the Gospel. The disciples thought Jesus had come here to establish a carnal, earthly, Jewish empire, a literal earthly kingdom rather than a heavenly one. They fought for power.

B. The child (Gk. *paidion*) Jesus chooses is a young boy or what we might call a toddler.

What are your feelings when you see a two-year old? You don’t shove a toddler aside. You don’t get your feelings hurt by the actions of a two-year-old. You are patient, kind, generous, helpful, good, gracious, etc... This is exactly the way we are to be with the adults that we love.

C. Christ regards His people so that He takes your treatment of them as if it’s done to Himself.

In exactly as all who receive Christ receive God the Father, so all who receive one of Christ’s disciples receive Him. And of course, the one who mistreats His people reject Christ Himself.

II. When Jesus gives me a relationship principle, I should think of my practical obedience to it (v. 49).

“John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out demons in Your name; and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow along with us” (Luke 9:49). John saw they’d rejected a man. Be sure to get the context. John was not suddenly changing the subject. Rather, the Master’s words pricked his heart and *he pointed out where the disciples had done something wrong.* The Spirit within John immediately used the Word of Christ to bring conviction to an action totally contrary to Christ.

III. Those who embrace Christ are on the same team and we are not “to hinder” them (v. 50).

“But Jesus said to him, “Do not hinder him; for he who is not against you is for you” (Luke 9:50).

This is a specific warning to refrain from rebuke, cutting yourself off from, or condemning, anyone who is doing the same Kingdom work as you, preaching the same gospel you are preaching, laboring in the name of Christ against the prince of darkness for souls, regardless of the differences in you.

A. Defending the faith does not mean destroying the brethren.

One of the most shameful, God dishonoring, gospel crippling deeds of church history is the fact that throughout the history of God’s church there have been many who equate serving Christ and defending the faith with dividing brethren! This evil seems even more prevalent today.

B. Receiving criticism is God’s test for your relational commitment.

Be sure you understand my meaning. The relational commitment in question is not the person who is doing the criticizing of you, but rather, it is your commitment to your Lord and Savior. For if you see the person who is censuring you and condemning you as a child, and you place yourself in the position of “receiving him” as you would receive a child – with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - then you demonstrate your acceptance and reception of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of God who lives in you. (Philippians 1:12-18; Romans 14:4; I Corinthians 3:9-10; 16-17; Ephesians 4:1-7; Colossians 3).