

Sinners, Jesus Will Receive

(Luke 9:51-56)

- Introduction:
1. Have you ever witnessed someone take the high-road and in so doing, shame you for your sinful behavior or thoughts?
 2. This constantly must have been what it was like being a disciple of Jesus.
 3. But that shouldn't change for the 21st century disciples of Jesus.
 4. Just as our early brothers were shamed and corrected, so should we be today.
 5. Let's examine one such example from Luke 9:51-56.

I. The Pursuit of Jesus

- A. (Luke 9:51).
- B. Jesus "set his face" to go to Jerusalem.
- C. Jesus was in pursuit of a goal with his life and he never lost his focus.
 1. As a child (Luke 2:49).
 2. As a man (John 4:34).
 3. At his death (John 19:30).
- D. How different would our lives be if we lived with the same focus pursuit and focus Jesus possessed.

II. The Prejudices of Men

- A. (Luke 9:52-54).
- B. The background to the Samaritan/Jewish animosity toward each other.
- C. The Samaritans
 1. They would not receive Jesus because he was going to Jerusalem (9:53).
 2. Imagine rejecting the Son of God because of your hatred for others.
 3. Does it still happen today?
- D. The Disciples (James and John)
 1. James and John try to cloak their disdain for the Samaritans by invoking Scripture about Elijah (9:54).
 2. They wanted the Samaritans to be put to death.
 3. Do disciples today ever use Scripture to sinners with contempt?

III. The Purpose of Jesus

- A. (Luke 9:55-56).
- B. Jesus called their spirituality into question for having such an attitude (9:55).
- C. Jesus' purpose was not to destroy sinners, but to save them (9:56).
- D. What is our attitude when we fight the moral decay seen in our culture?

- Conclusion:
1. Jesus has always been and will always be a challenge to his followers.
 2. His perfect life constantly exposes our failures and weaknesses.
 3. But his holiness should serve as a motivating challenge to those who seek to be like him.

