**POWERLINES: Empowered by Awareness**

# Luke 9:43-50

Dr. Matt Shackelford  Central Church  April 30, 2023  Social Media: Powerlines

***Awareness of self, others, and God***

***Kills the Competition!***

1. See Ourselves as **Lowly-Learners** (43-47).
2. See Others as **Cherished-Children** (48).

1. See Outsiders as **Ministering-Missionaries** (49-50).

***Luke 9:43-50***

*“But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples,****44****“Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.”****45****But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.* ***46****An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest.* ***47****But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side*

***48****and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”*

***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.”*

*(ESV).*

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***Quote for the Week. . .***

**by Jerry Bridges**

*“Before we can learn the sufficiency of God’s grace, we must learn the insufficiency of ourselves. The more we see our sinfulness, the more we appreciate grace in its basic meaning of God’s undeserved favor. In a similar manner, the more we see our frailty, weakness, and dependence, the more we appreciate God’s grace in its dimension of His divine assistance. Just as grace shines more brilliantly against the dark background of our sin, so it also shines more brilliantly against the background of our human weakness.”*

***Jerry Bridges, Transforming Grace, NavPress, 1991, p. 144.***

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are for further study and application of today’s sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help your fight for life change. One of the best ways to grow in the body is discussing the answers to these questions in a small group. Find one here:* [*www.centralchurch.com/groups*](http://www.centralchurch.com/groups)

1. ***Read Romans 3:23-36.*** *How does this passage help us think more biblically when tempted to play a horizontal comparison game?*
2. ***Read 1 Corinthians 4:7 and 12:12-18.*** *How do these two passages help us navigate rivalries that inevitably arise within the church and God’s people?*
3. *Some truths are worth fighting and dividing, such as the deity of Christ, the inspiration of scripture, salvation by Grace through faith, etc. What are a few secondary matters for which we ought to practice charity within the church?*