

Failure in Serving Christ

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I. Introduction.

- A. We sometimes cannot do the very thing in which God calls us to serve Him.
- B. The greater the potential for success, the greater the potential for failure.
- C. Text: Luke 9:37.

II. The disciples tried to cast out the demon even though they failed.

- A. Jesus gave them authority to cast out demons.
- B. They were in the middle of the will of God by trying to cast out the demons—the will of God is not always the smoothest path.

III. Why the disciples failed.

A. A lack of faith.

1. Unbelief is a major sin.
2. When we begin to lose confidence in God, we may be on the brink of failure.

B. A lack of discipline. (Matthew 17)

1. There has to be discipline involved in the victorious life such as prayer and fasting.
2. We tend to do discipline only when we feel like it.
3. A lack of discipline is a lack of authority.

C. A lack of humility.

1. A lack of humility resulted in a spirit of comparison. When we compare ourselves with God, there is not that much difference when we compare ourselves with others.
2. A lack of humility resulted in a spirit of criticism.
3. A lack of humility resulted in a spirit of condemnation.

Application questions:

1. Which hindrance to the disciples casting out demons stands out to you the most? What strikes you about it?

2. Why do think humility affects so many other aspects of a person's life?

3. In which spiritual disciplines would you like to grow? What practical steps can you take this week to do so?
