

## **Who Will Be the Greatest**

Luke 9:37-50

by Don Falkos

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The day after the transfiguration, when Jesus, Peter, John, and James came down off the mountain, there was a large crowd waiting for them. From the crowd a man called out, "Teacher, please help my son. An evil spirit keeps taking hold of him. It makes him scream out loud, throws him into convulsions on the ground, makes him foam at the mouth, and won't let go of him until he's completely worn out, bruised and battered from head to toe. I pleaded with your disciples to get rid of this evil spirit, but they couldn't do it."

Jesus said, "Oh, you people. Where is your faith? How many times do I have to explain? How much longer do I have to put up with this? Bring the boy to me."

The evil spirit took hold of the boy and threw him to the ground. Jesus stepped in, commanded the evil spirit to leave, and healed the boy. Everyone was amazed.

Then Jesus spoke privately to his disciples, "Listen carefully to what I'm about to say. The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men." They couldn't make heads or tails of what he was saying and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.

Later the disciples started arguing about which of them was going to be the greatest. Jesus brought a little child to stand by him and said, "Whoever welcomes a child because of me, welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me, welcomes the One who sent me. Greatness is attained not by attempting to honor yourself, but by humbling yourself."

John interrupted, "Master, we saw a man using your name to expel evil spirits and we stopped him because he isn't part of our group."

Jesus replied, "Don't stop him! Anyone who's not an enemy is an ally."