**Building Core Strength**

**A Father's Strength[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Luke 9:** **46-62**

4 characteristics of a father who wishes to follow Christ

I. Humble

A. The disciple's argument

1. Started apart from Christ's presence

**Mark 9:33 - They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them,
“What were you discussing on the way?”**

2. They didn't want to admit it

**Mark 9:34 - But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest.**

B. The disciples' disconnect

1. Jesus was talking about His pending suffering

**Luke 9:22 -saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day.”**

**Luke 9:31 - who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.**

**Luke 9:44 - Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.**

2. They were talking about their personal glory

**Luke 9:46 - An argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest.**

*“This was a disturbing and potentially disastrous development. These men were the first generation of gospel preachers, and would be the leaders of the soon to be founded church. With so much riding on them and so much opposition from the hostile world, they needed to be unified and supportive of each other. The danger here is that pride ruins unity by destroying relationships. Relationships are based on loving sacrifice and service; on selfless deferring to and giving to others. Pride, being self-focused, is indifferent to others. Beyond that, it is ultimately judgmental and critical, and therefore divisive. Because of that, pride is the most common destroyer both of relationships and of churches. It plagued the Corinthian church, causing Paul to ask, ‘For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?’ (I Cor. 3:3). Knowing that pride is the wedge Satan uses to split churches and splinter relationships, the Lord stressed to the disciples the crucial necessity of humility”* (John MacArthur, p. 301).

C. Jesus' antidote

**Luke 9:47-48 - But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side, and said to them, “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.”**

*“In Judaism, children under twelve could not be taught the Torah, and so to spend time with them was considered a waste.”* (Darrell Bock, Luke, 894-95)

**Matthew 18:3-4 - Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

II. Secure

A. The disciples' concern

**Luke 9:49a - John answered and said, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name…"**

B. The disciples' solution

**Luke 9:49b - “…and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow along with us."**

C. Jesus' solution

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

III. Merciful

A. The disciples’ “next problem”

**Luke 9:33 - But they did not receive Him, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem.**

B. The disciples' proposed solution

**Luke 9:54 - When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”**

C. Jesus' rebuke

**Luke 9:55-56 - But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” And they went on to another village.**

**Mathew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.**

IV. Focus

**Mark 9:58 - And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”**

A. Instead of worshipping comfort

**Luke 9:59 - And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”**

**Luke 9:60 - But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.”**

B. Instead of worshipping wealth

**Luke 9:61 - Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.”**

**Luke 9:62 - But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

C. Instead of worshipping relationships with those who are your closest natural companions

1. Dr. Steve Viars [↑](#footnote-ref-1)