

HE IS PATIENT WITH ME // Luke 9:37-56

Morning message from the series, The Gospel of Luke

This week, Pastor Neal reminded us that we all in process (Rom. 2:4). Coming to a saving faith involves a process of some sort. It may be over 4 years, or four months, God generally draws people to his Son through a process of relationships, circumstances, and growing knowledge of Scripture. Once we become Christians, we begin an entirely new process: the Christian life – which is itself a long process of ups and downs, stumbling (two steps forward, one step back) as we ever track onward in our growth in Christ (cf. Phil. 1:6; 3:12-13). Yet, we are all in process, and that process is undergirded by the patience of God.

In Luke 9:37-56 we see five common mistakes Christians make in their process that in turn invoke the patience of our Lord. In turn, we see that it is God's patient with us that is the very fuel for the process of Christian growth. Knowing that God's patient is there, allows us to stumble, learn, and growth under the sovereign safety-net of God's amazing grace. In the end, we learn that our God is indeed a patient God who is more committed to our process than we are (cf. Isaiah 30:18), and that makes all the difference. We are reminded, *we're still in process.*

God is patient with me when...

1. I forget to pray. (v. 37-43a)

If we cross-reference Mark's account of this story (Mark 9:14-29), we see that Jesus explains that particular demon could only be cast out by prayer, implying the disciples could not cast it out because they had not prayed.

Ministry and the Christian life are undergirded by prayer. We cannot do them in our own strength.

2. I do not understand. (v. 43b-45)

There will be season when we just do not understand. In some of those times, God will need to be patient with us as we seek to understand. In other times, we will need to be patient with God as He provides understanding to us.

3. I show my pride (v. 46-48)

God has called us to a life of humility. We are called to navigate our lives like children, obediently following our Father.

4. I hog the ministry. (v. 49-50)

If we are not careful, we can fall into ministry competitiveness.

The second we begin to think God needs us, He will show us clearly that He does not need us.

5. I lose sight of grace. (v. 51-56)

Sometimes we forget that we are supposed to love the lost. Just because someone rejects Jesus does not give us the right to reject them. We are called to show grace.

We must remember that we are all in process. We have not arrived in the Christian faith and we all require God's patience throughout our process. God is patient with each of us – even when we are not patient with ourselves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to you to know that you are in process?
2. Based on this passage, it is evident that the disciples were in process and had not arrived in the Christian faith. How does this make you feel?
3. What does this passage teach us about the person of Jesus? About the character of God?