

# Sin Persists but Grace Prevails! (Part 2)

Luke: All Things New



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Luke 9:37-56



## Big Idea

Even after conversion sin still persists in the heart of the Christian. It can be quite ugly at times. But, because of Christ's commitment to bring to completion the work He's started, we can be sure that grace will ultimately prevail!

## Sin Persists

### Vignette #4: Tribalism (vv. 49-50)

There is someone out there, not a part of the Twelve, casting out demons in Jesus' name. He is having success in ministry, you could say. But John tries to stop him. For John the decisive factor is whether the person is "with us"—the Twelve, our tribe. If he's not within our little group, he must be up to no good. But for Jesus, the decisive factor is whether the person is "with Me" (cf. Luke 11:23). In other words: A person can be outside of our little tribe and still be with Jesus, and, hence, on our team. We often like to blend the two pronouns here so that if a person is not with us, he must not be with Jesus either. But Jesus is moving in precisely the opposite direction. This is not to say that the distinctions in theology or philosophy or practice don't matter, but it is to say that somewhere along the way we often lose sight of the greater thing that unites us: namely, Jesus . . . and the cross (cf. 1 Cor 1:10-31).

### Vignette #5: Animosity (vv. 51-55)

When these Samaritans see that Jesus is heading towards "Jerusalem" (v. 51), land of the Jews, well they refuse to be of any help to Him. And James and John are ready to follow suit, even to up the ante a little bit: "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" (v. 54). No doubt they thought this was an honorable thing for them to consider. "Don't let them treat you this way. We will defend you against this kind of disrespect." But it is so terribly out of touch with what the Savior has truly come to do (cf. John 12:47b; Mark 10:45). Will He come again to judge the living and the dead? Absolutely. But for now "His face [is] set toward Jerusalem" (v. 53) where He will be judged in our place. The fire James and John would call down on these Samaritans, Jesus will soon call down on Himself on the cross!

## But Grace Prevails!

We must be willing to say how little we know of ourselves and our own hearts. That is one of the critical points this text brings out. We are so prone to think we are fine, even when we're not. These disciples didn't see these things in themselves. But Jesus does, and though sin persists, His grace prevails.

## Reflection Questions



- How have you experienced "Tribalism" in the churches you've been a part of in the past? How have you seen it even in this church? How can you help us push against this?
- Has your identity been anchored in Jesus? Have you been defining yourself in Him— what He has said about you, what He has done for you? Or have you been defining yourself over and against others? Does the success of others threaten you? Does the failure of others secretly please you? Be honest. How can His grace prevail over this tendency in you?
- How do you feel about the unbelieving? Are they opponents you'd like to call fire down on? Or are they lost and broken souls (like you once were and still are in many ways), and you'd be willing to lay down your life for them if it would help them see our Savior?! Describe a time when you treated a person more like the former. Now describe a time that accorded more with the latter. What accounted for the difference?