



-- Introduction – Video Awareness Test

-- Did you miss the Moon-Walking Bear?

-- It is amazing how easy it is to miss the obvious if we are not looking for it.

-- In our text for this morning, we see that the people all around Christ, and His disciples in particular are missing an enormous “Moon Walking Bear” of much greater importance.

-- Unless we pay attention, we will miss it too, and, as a result, our lives will lack power and purpose.

-- **Big Idea: We miss the message until we concentrate on the cross.**

-- Read Luke 9:37-45

-- Pray

-- Review of Luke 9:27-36

– Big Idea: “All true glory is centered in Christ.”

-- It ensues in Him, exists in Him, ends in Him, and exalts Him.

-- *Jesus’ departure is the center point of all history.*

-- From the beginning of this world until its end, the atoning death of Christ has been and will always remain humanity’s only hope.

**1.) Don’t miss the main message.** (v. 37-45)

A. Common Explanations of Jesus’ Reaction in Verse 41:

-- v. 41 – *“O unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.”*

1. Many of the commentaries seemed to gloss over this statement of Christ, but it seems to lie at the heart of any proper understanding of this text.
  2. Some believe Jesus is speaking specifically to the disciples here, chiding them for failing to claim the power Jesus had accorded to them in 9:1.
- B. Best Explanation: Christ aims this comment at everyone who misunderstands His mission.
- C. There is a telling contrast between verses 43 and 45.
1. v. 43 – In response to the driving out of a demon:
    - a. The people *“were all amazed at the greatness of God,”*
    - b. *“Everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did.”*
  2. v. 45 – In response to Christ’s second Passion prediction:
    - a. The disciples *“did not understand what this meant.”*
    - b. *“They did not grasp it.”*
    - c. *“They were afraid to ask him about it.”*
- D. They missed the main message because they wanted a spectacle, not a sacrifice.
1. They weren’t looking for a Savior who would sacrifice His life for their sins.
  2. They wanted a miracle maker who could marvel them.
- E. They missed the main message because they marveled at the miracles without meditating upon their meaning.
1. Illustration –Preachers can often repeat entire sermons as long as they change the illustrations, because the illustrations are usually all that people remember.
  2. Jesus never performed miracles for the miracles’ sake alone.
  3. Every miracle pointed to the main message of the cross.
  4. Luke 5:24 – *“‘But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....’ He said to the paralyzed man, ‘I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.’*

## 2.) Concentrate carefully on the cross. (v. 44)

- v. 44 – *“Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men.”*
- A. The main message of Christ is the cross.
1. 1 Timothy 1:15 – *“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”*
  2. In verse 44, Jesus intentionally draws His disciples’ attention back to His earlier Passion prediction.

- a. v. 44a – *“Listen carefully...”* – i.e., *“Please hear this, and do not miss the point.”*
- b. 44b – *“The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men.”* – i.e., *“Here is the main message.”*
- 3. Context: In each of the last two passages, Jesus gives very specific focus to His death and resurrection.
  - a. Luke 9:22 – *“And he said, ‘The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.’”*
    - i. Just after Peter confesses Jesus as “the Christ of God,” Jesus makes His first Passion prediction.
    - ii. Jesus is attempting to focus His disciples’ attention on His main mission.
  - b. Luke 9:30-31 – *“Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.”*
    - i. When Moses and Elijah appear, they are specifically discussing the death and resurrection of Jesus.
    - ii. They were discussing this because it was the central purpose to Christ’s mission.
- B. The Christian life is best lived “cross-eyed”
  - 1. “Cross-eyed” – Eyes, heart, and mind firmly fixed on the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
  - 2. Hebrews 12:2 – *“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*
  - 3. 1 Corinthians 2:2 (NLT) – *“For I decided to concentrate only on Jesus Christ and his death on the cross.”*
  - 4. **We miss the main message until we concentrate on the cross.**

### **Application Questions**

- *Where is your concentration in life? Is it on the cross of Christ?*
- *Where is your concentration in Bible study? Is it on the cross of Christ?*
- *Where is your concentration in prayer? Is it on the cross of Christ?*
- *Where is your concentration this morning? Is it on the cross of Christ?*
- *Can you concentrate on the cross, or are you missing the main message of life?*
  
- The Lord’s Supper calls us to concentrate on the cross of Christ.
- Read 1 Corinthians 11.

- Pray
- Countdown
- The Lord's Supper