> ### Facing the Cross, Jesus Corrects Misconceptions About His Kingdom
> ### Luke 9:46-62

In the Kingdom of God...

1. ...honor results from humble service, not social status.

*Luke 9:46 An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest.
47 But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side 48 and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great."*

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

2....fellowship is a matter of loyalty to Jesus, not a subculture.

Luke 9:49 John answered, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us." 50 But Jesus said to him, "Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you."

Numbers 11:27 And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." 28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them." 29 But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD'S people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"

3....the standard operating procedure is mercy not vengeance.

Luke 9:51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 And they went on to another village.

4....discipleship guarantees fellowship with Jesus, not earthly comfort.

Luke 9:57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

5...."good-newsing" is a primary feature, not a casual add-on.

Luke 9:59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

6....citizenship is embraced whole-heartedly, not tentatively.

Luke 9:61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Reflection/Discussion

1. Which of these six issues is most encouraging to you? Why?

2. Which is most challenging? Spend time this week working through your misconceptions by considering the following:
    - Why is this particular misconception challenging?
    - Consider how Jesus's life and character demonstrates the reality, not the misconceptions, of his kingdom.
    - List practical ways your life will change as you adopt this Kingdom value.
    - Invite a Christian friend to pray for you in this area.
    - Be thankful: the Holy Spirit is growing you into greater Christ-likeness!