

INTRODUCTION: Message - "Power Trip" (Luke 9:51-56)

Imagine four (4) little children playing together on one riding lawn tractor. One child starts the engine and steers, another child releases the clutch, one drops the cutter blades, and one sets the speed to full throttle! Imagine the raw power of that single lawn tractor under the control of mere children. What do you predict will happen?

Now, imagine powers (gifts) from God in the hands of immature, ego-driven, self-exalting (carnal) Christians.... what do you get? Answer: The Corinthian church!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Read Luke 9:51-56. Do you think you would be capable of controlling power to call down fire from heaven?
- 2) Read Luke 10:17-20. Why do you think Jesus wanted the seventy to re-focus their attention (v20)? What did Jesus want them to avoid?
- 3) Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-7. What gifts (if any) did the Corinthian church lack?
- 4) Read 1 Corinthians 1:11 and 7:1a. What were some of the reasons that prompted Paul to write the epistle we call 1 Corinthians?
- 5) Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. Why does God empower His children?
- 6) Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4. What traits showed Paul that the members of the Corinthian church were still immature Christians? Do you see similar traits in any part of the congregation where you worship? Are any of these traits in you!?!

SO WHAT?:

Power granted to the wrong people can easily be abused or misused. Yet when power is in the right hands and under the right circumstances, God will do MIGHTY works through His people. If our goal is to show off our "spirituality", then how does God get the glory?

Examine your own motives. WHY do you want to work in a particular area? For whose benefit? What if God prefers to give you a different assignment... perhaps an assignment that you do NOT want right now? Are you suitable for the Master's use?

THINK ABOUT IT:

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." (Luke 16:10)