

“Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands.”⁴⁵ But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.⁴⁶ An argument arose among them as to which one of them was the greatest.⁴⁷ But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side,⁴⁸ and said to them, “Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest.”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 whoever is not against you is for you.”

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. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him;⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem.⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them.⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village.

(NRSV)

1. Jesus was fully committed to his life **MISSION**. He refused to be distracted by the accolades or the criticisms of those around him.

Jesus determination opened the way for us to **KNOW GOD**.

3. The disciple’s failure to grasp the mission of Jesus was the fruit of their limited **SPIRITUAL** insight.

We always struggle to connect with Jesus’ mission when our thoughts are confined to the **ORDINARY**.

5. Without Jesus’ resolve we could not have known God and we would be forever **PRISONERS** of a hopeless existence.

Our **RESPONSE** to Jesus' mission is crucial: Some would not receive him; some misunderstood him; but some **FOUND LIFE**.

... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

John 1:12 (NIV)