

BEYOND US vs THEM

July 18, 2021 Luke 9:46-56 by Bob Branch
The Power & Complexity of Forgiveness, part 11

Who are your “Them” —THOSE people who aren’t us?

BIG IDEA: Listen to how Jesus addresses Us vs. Them and let it expose our need to forgive and adopt his way of seeing people.

⁴⁶ An argument started among them about who was the greatest of them. ⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing their inner thoughts, took a little child and had him stand next to him. ⁴⁸ He told them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes him who sent me. For whoever is least among you—this one is great.”

¹ _____.

“What is the cause of your conflicts and quarrels with each other? Doesn’t the battle begin inside of you as you fight to have your own way and fulfill your own desires?”
James 4:1 TPT

*Has your selfish ambition created some trouble for you?
Has someone else’s selfish ambition run over you?*

⁴⁹ John responded, “Master, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he does not follow us.” ⁵⁰ “Don’t stop him,” Jesus told him, “because whoever is not against you is for you.”

THEY AREN’T PART OF US—² _____.

What are your tribal associations? Who won’t you associate with?

⁵¹ When the days were coming to a close for him to be taken up, he determined to journey to Jerusalem. ⁵² He sent messengers ahead of himself, and on the way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make preparations for him. ⁵³ But they did not welcome him, because he determined to journey to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?”

⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them, [*and said, “You don’t know what kind of spirit you belong to. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy people’s lives, but to save them”*] ⁵⁶ and they went to another village. **Luke 9:46–56** CSB

³ _____.

“God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.” **John 3:17** TM

Who are your Us’s and Who are you Them’s?

Hatred that must find it’s end in forgiving.

NEXT STEPS

- **Allow the Spirit to speak** to you about these areas in you, and agree with his assessment.
- Where Selfish Ambition, Tribalism and Us vs. Them exists, **turn from them and to God**. Repent.
- **Forgive** people/groups/organizations/churches/leaders/parties/races—**wherever forgiveness is needed**.
- **Start welcoming** unimportant/outsider people into your world. Move in their direction.