

We all have a need for significance. We were created that way. The question is, "How do we get it?" The question of greatness was on the disciples mind one day too. What does it take to be great? As you might guess it's different than the path the world says to take.

The Path To Significance & Greatness

Lessons From A Cute Kid & A Pushy Mom

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:1-4 (NIV)

Matthew 20:20-28

"In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born to be a man and became like a servant." Philipians 2:5-7 (CEV)

I Must Choose Five Things

1. Choose To Do _____

*"Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast..."
Philipians 2:3a (GN)*

2. Choose To Be _____

*"...but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves."
Philipians 2:3b (GN)*

_____ **Change Begins With**
_____ **Change** (Eph 4:22-24)

3. Choose To Put _____

*"...look out for one another's interests."
Philippians 2:4 (GN)*

"Suppose someone has enough to live and sees a brother or sister in need, but does not help. Then God's love is not living in that person. My children, we should love people not only with words and talk, but by our actions and true caring." 1 John 3:17-18 (NCV)

"Then Jesus said to his disciples: If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find it." Matthew 16:24-25 (CEV)

4. Choose To Serve _____

*"In everything you do, stay away from complaining."
Philippians 2:14 (NLT)*

Simple Priority Plan ...

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5. Choose To Be _____

Luke 17:11-19

*"If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life."
Matthew 5:41 (The Message)*

*"The LORD sustains the humble."
Psalms 147:6 (NIV)*

Why should I humble myself and serve others?

"And all of you, serve each other in humility, for 'God sets himself against the proud, but he shows favor to the humble.'" 1 Peter 5:5 (NLT)

James 4:6,10; Matthew 23:12

*"One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty."
Proverbs 11:24 (NIV)*

Personal Study - Growth Homework

GETTING STARTED

What would you say has been your greatest accomplishment(s) so far in life? Why is it hard for us to talk about our accomplishments – what are we afraid of or concerned about? Do you agree greatness is not a bad thing it 's what we do with greatness when we have it?

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

Over the past few weeks we have talked about mercy, grace, judging others and now humility. How are all of these connected to each other?

One could divide the study this weekend into two parts the attitude for greatness and the actions for greatness. Take a few minutes and write down some of your thoughts under each of these headings.

Attitudes Needed For
Greatness Are ...

Actions Demonstrating
Greatness Are ...

In your own words why is the attitude of humility
so hard and yet essential for greatness?

Just as there is "fools gold" or fake gold there can be fake humility. As we learned last week it's not our place to judge. So without being judgmental what are some of the difference between the false or fake humility and real humility? What gives false humility away?

Why did God what us to know Luke 17:11-19 happened?
How can this keep us from wanting to serve others?

(If you have time take a look at 1 Kings 11:21-12:19 & Proverbs 11:25, 26)

How does humility & serving fit into Romans 12:17-21?

What is Paul's point in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31?

According to Acts 12:21-24, how serious is God about pride?

GOING DEEPER

This weekend we said ... *"Humility is an approach to life in which we purpose to put others first by choice."* How does true humility translate into everyday life? What does our life look like when we don't choose to make this our approach to life and what are we choosing?

Matthew 18:1-4 tells us the disciples lost the right perspective. If the path to greatness requires us to ... *"consistently put the needs and wants of others first by doing acts of service which are neither required or called for"...* what can we do to keep the right perspective when it comes to serving our spouse – family – others – (etc) and in the church? What is or should be our perspective to serving in the church?

What does it take to live obedient to our Lord, humbly serving others – putting their needs before our needs – considering others better than our selves? What barriers get in the way of living this way - what do we have to fight? How do we maintain the right focus?

When is it hardest for you to humble yourself
and serve others putting their needs first?

As a result of this study what's one thing you need to put into practice? What needs to change in your life?