

Selfishness of Youth – A Journey

- We all started the same way.
- Helpless infants focused on ourselves
- Some grow out of this
- Some never change at all
- Most of us are somewhere in between.
- *All of self and none of Thee*
- *Some of self and some of Thee*
- *Less of self and more of Thee*
- *None of self and all of Thee*

The Road to Greatness

- Leads away from the selfish toward service
- The apostles had not travelled far...
- *on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. 35 And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “**If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.**” Mk. 9:33-35*
- *whoever desires to become great shall among you shall be your **servant**. 44 And whoever of you **desires to be first** shall be **slave of all**. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be **served**, but to **serve**, and to **give His life** a ransom for many. Mk 10:43-45*

Greatness – Our View and God's

- At the Passover meal they are still arguing
- *There was also a dispute among them, which of them should be considered the greatest.*
- *"The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.'* 26 *But **not so among you**; on the contrary, **he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.** 27 *For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? **Yet I am among you as the One who serves.** Lk 22:25**

Greatness – Men or God

- How the scribes and Pharisees saw greatness: A position to be served
- *But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. 6 They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, 7 greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.'* Mt 23:5-7

Greatness – Men or God

- How Jesus saw greatness: A position to serve
- *But you, **do not be called 'Rabbi'**; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. 9 **Do not call anyone on earth your father**; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 And **do not be called teachers**; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. 11 But **he who is greatest among you shall be your servant**. 12 And **whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.** Mt 23:8-12*

Two Great Examples

● *Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men;*

Phil 2:5-9

● *Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, *Jn**

13:3-17

Example of True Servant

- John 13:1-2 before or after the argument?
Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. John 13:3-4
- Jesus knew no one greater than He was.
- God given all things into His hands
- Knew He had come from God
- Knew He was going back to God

A Lesson to Learn

- *After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, John 13:4-5*
- Jesus was giving them a perfect example
- *For even the Son of Man did not come to be **served**, but to **serve**, and to **give His life** a ransom for many.*
- Peter could not grasp it and didn't understand.
- *And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." 8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" 13:6-8*
- Peter thinks he is honoring Jesus.

Jesus' Warning to Peter

- *Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" John 13:8-9*
- This is Jesus final night... now or never
- This principle must be learned!
- If you can't or won't learn it you can't be a disciple.
- Peter still doesn't understand. Thinks it is just the washing and not the principle.

Do you Know what I have Done?

- *12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"*
- Jesus now teaches – objective standard.
- *You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 13:12-14*
- Jesus had served as an example to them.
- We must all learn from this **objective** standard
- Not the act; but the **principle of service**.

I have Given You an Example

- *For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. 13:15-17*
- **The choice belongs to each of us here.**
- **This is the clear objective standard.**
- **Now we know! We are blessed if we Do!**

The Final Destination

• *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. Phil 2:3-11*

The Final Destination

• *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
Phil 2:3-11

