

A Weakness in the Apostles

- *Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, “What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?” 34 But they kept silent, for 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*
- What would they be basing their idea of greatness?

Nebuchadnezzar's Greatness

- If Nebuchadnezzar had been there: would have said:
- *The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, **that I have built** for a royal dwelling **by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?**"*
- *31 While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: **the kingdom has departed from you!** **until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.**" Dan 4:30-32*
- He thought his greatness stemmed from Babylon
- I built it... my mighty power... honor of my majesty
- Truth: Most High rules gives it to whoever he chooses

The Truth about Greatness

- *For who makes you differ from another?*
- *And what do you have that you did not receive?*
- *Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? 1Cor 4:6-7*
- As the twelve and Nebuchadnezzar we must all learn this lesson.
- We don't have anything we did not receive!
- God created the heavens and the earth
- God made us in His image and likeness
- God gave us our dominion.

The Truth about Greatness

- *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Rom. 12:3-4*
- Every ability we might consider to make us great.
- God dealt it ... just as He did every part of our body.
- The eye can't boast ... It sees because of God.
- Each of us has been given our gifts as all those in Hebrews 11 so we can measure out our faith.

The Truth about Greatness

- *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1Pet. 4:10-11*
- What makes some feel greatness
- Makes others give God the glory for making it possible!
- God gave us the gifts to minister.
- God gave us the words to speak.
- God gave us the strength to minister.
- When we see all that we have as a gift from God we are ready to become the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

An Assessment We All must Make

- *If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.*
- Nebuchadnezzar became great:
- *And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: Dan 4:34*
- What about the apostles?
- What about us?
- Have we learned to be last of all and servant of all?

Their Journey to Greatness

- *Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." 36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" 37 They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." Mk 10:35-37*
- James and John are still on their quest for greatness.
- They wait till Jesus is alone
- Want to be right hand and left hand of the king when he sits in glory.

Their Journey to Greatness

- *And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.*
- The response of the others tells us everything.
- James and John sought greatness
- When the 10 heard they were indignant.

Jesus Guides to Greatness

- *But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great 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. 10:41-45*
- Jesus compares their conduct.
- 1st to the Gentiles
- 2nd to Himself
- A clear standard for greatness.
- Who do we more closely resemble.

They Still Had not Learned

- *And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. 21 But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. 22 And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" 23 Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing. Lk. 22:19-23*
- During the institution of the Lord's Supper
- They revert to the same argument they had earlier.

Jesus Revealed the Truth

- *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. 22:25-27*
- They would have to choose
- So do we.

The Attitude of a Servant

- *Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. James 1:17-18*
- Gratitude always leads to humility and service.
- It is logical, reasonable and honorable.
- Never forget, no matter how great we see ourselves because of our abilities, there is only one reason:
- *For who makes you differ from another, And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? 1Cor. 4:6*