

# The Road to Greatness

- Leads away from the selfish use of others toward service that puts other first and above our own needs.
- 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*

# View of Greatness?— Men's or Jesus'

- How scribes and Pharisees (men) saw greatness:
- Reaching a position where others serve their needs:
- *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*
- In all our relationships with others does this sound familiar? Is this how we feel sometimes?
- Do we want the best? Treated like we are special?

# View of Greatness?— Men's or Jesus'

- How Jesus saw greatness: A position of service
- *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*
- Does our view of greatness accept these truths?
- Are we willing and able to take less even as far as turning the other cheek or going the second mile?

# Jesus – Two Examples of True Greatness

- **Before Jesus left heaven to come to earth to serve:**
- *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*
- **Application (what He expects His example to do):**
- *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. Phil 2:3-4*
- Act like Pharisees with selfish ambition/empty conceit.
- Act like Jesus with lowliness of mind?
- Esteeming others better than ourselves?
- Look to our own interests?
- Look to the interests of others?

# Jesus – Two Examples of True Greatness

- **A few weeks before Jesus prepared to return to heaven**
- *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*
- **Applications He expected us to Make**
- *you also ought to wash one another's feet. 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.*

# Practical Applications

● *Likewise you **younger people**, submit yourselves to your **elders**. Yes, all of you be **submissive to one another**, and be **clothed with humility**, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore **humble yourselves under the mighty hand** of God, that **He may exalt you in due time**, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 1Pet. 5:5-7*

- Those who want to be great in the kingdom of heaven
- Are submissive to one another
- Clothe themselves with humility
- Humble themselves under the mighty hand of God.
- He will exalt you in due time.

# Applications of these Examples

- Therefore, *as the elect of God*, holy and beloved, **put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another**, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But **above all these things put on love**, which is the bond of perfection.
- **Wives**, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
- **Husbands**, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.
- **Children**, obey your parents in all things
- **Fathers**, do not provoke your children, lest they be discouraged
- **Bondservants**, obey in all things your masters in sincerity of heart, fearing God.
- And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.
- **Masters**, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. Col 3:12-24

# Becoming Great by Being a Servant

- Therefore **do not be unwise**, but **understand what the will of the Lord** is. ... giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 **submitting to one another in the fear of God**.
- **Wives**, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
- **Husbands**, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
- **Children**, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- **fathers**, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
- **Bondservants**, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;
- **masters**, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. Eph. 5:17-6:10



# Becoming Great by Being a Servant

- *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*
- *Therefore **submit** yourselves to **every ordinance of man** for the Lord's sake, ...to the **king** as supreme, or **governors**,*
- *18 **Servants**, be **submissive to your masters** with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. 19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.*

# Becoming Great by Being a Servant

- *having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that by your good works which they observe, glorify God:*
- ***Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, ... let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,***
- ***Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life,***
- ***8 Finally, all of you be of one mind,** having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing.*