

Upside Down Love

Jesus said, "The greatest among you must be a servant." (Matthew 23:11) *His definition of greatness is not how many people follow or like you, it is how you serve others.* This means that the most powerful and demanding people of our society are the lowest in God's view. And it makes the ones who will "serve one another humbly in love" (Galatians 5:13) the greatest in God's eyes. Greatness, according to Jesus, is found in those who spend their lives serving others, not in power, strength, wealth, or popularity.

Jesus View of Greatness

Jesus said, "If you want to be first, you must be the very last. You must be the servant of everyone." Mark 9:35. Well, that is a BIG statement. Jesus was turning the way the whole world judged people upside-down. *Being great isn't about how many people you control or how many people think you are great; being great is SERVING others. In fact, it is purposely putting yourself LAST.*

This was the opposite of what we hear every day. Advertisers want us to think life is about getting what is best for us; that buying their product will give us a life without work, without pain, and will somehow allow us to live on a beach where no one gets sunburned, and the weather is always perfect. Just think of how many ads say, "You deserve it" or "You're worth it." Jesus really didn't preach that at all; He taught us, and His disciples that greatness is about serving others:

- **Put God first**
- **Put others second**
- **Put ourselves last**

He flipped everything upside-down and taught a different way of thinking about greatness.

Changing Your View

Jesus' teaching is upside-down to the world's teaching, but it reminds us of the true greatness of those who are humble and loving. Can you think of people who match Jesus' view of greatness? They are likely hard to find, because someone who is serving others and putting themselves last likely isn't spending his or her life getting followers. Instead, they will be out helping, serving, and loving others.

Hopefully you know someone like this. They are amazing people and fun to be around. They help, they support, they encourage, and they make a difference; quietly.

Why this matters to you

While Jesus' teaching on greatness should change how we see others, it should also change how we live our lives. God isn't grading you based on how much you do or don't do; He is looking at your heart, loving you, and desiring that you show that love to others. Even when it is hard.

Jesus didn't just teach about serving others, He showed us how to be a servant. Jesus, who is God, came to Earth and fed the hungry, healed the sick, comforted the hurting, encouraged the humble, and washed His disciples' feet. He flipped our expectations of greatness and called us to something better. And *now we have that opportunity to go out and put His love into action by serving others.*