

Mark 9:33-41 — "True Greatness Revealed in Serving & Non-Jealous Attitudes"

There are many of us that are willing to do great things for the Lord, but few of us are willing to do little things.
(DL Moody)

Can you serve your boss and others at work, helping them to succeed and be happy, even when they are promoted and you are overlooked? Can you work to make others look good without envy filling your heart? Can you minister to the needs of those whom God exalts and men honor when you yourself are neglected? Can you pray for the ministry of others to prosper when it would cast yours in the shadows? (Don Whitney)

THESIS — In this account, the Master teaches the disciples about true greatness! Here we see 2 extremely important lessons for all disciples.

I. True Greatness Is Found in **Being Servant of All! (33-37)**

II. True Greatness Is Found in **Rejecting Competitive Attitudes (38-41)**

I. TRUE GREATNESS IS FOUND IN BEING SERVANT OF ALL (33-37)

- The point: a disciple must have a ***servant's** attitude*

A. The shameful discussion (33-34)

Ann Dutton said: "Pride is a pregnant monster"

B. The divine lesson (35)

C. The tender illustration (36-37)

How do you cultivate HUMILITY? **5 **P's****

1. **P**onder the cross
2. **P**ray in thankfulness to Christ
3. **P**ursue spiritual disciplines
4. **P**ut your cares upon Jesus
5. **P**our over the doctrine of man & the attributes of God

WHY BECOME LIKE A CHILD?

Children own nothing

Children depend entirely on parents

Children aren't concerned about reputation, status, prestige, honor

Children have simple, childlike, believing, confident faith.

Children are weak in and of themselves.

Children were/are [unimportant] low in social status/prominence

Children trust & they don't doubt.

Children run to dad and mom to find refuge and help

Why a child? – A child is regarded as small, weak, and dependent, a child is the PERFECT ILLUSTRATION of those who are the most responsive to God's grace!

II. TRUE GREATNESS IS FOUND IN REJECTING COMPETITIVE ATTITUDES (38-41)

- The point: the servant must have a ***tolerant** attitude* [non-jealous/non-competitive]

James 2.1-5! no favoritism/competitiveness/comparisons

Num 11:26-28

John 3:26-30!

>> a true mark of Christlikeness is to help see others SUCCEED AND THRIVE.

Let's *NOT* be so intolerant and narrow and exclusive that we REJECT others who don't do it "like we do". Ministry is a joint-venture; be faithful; pray for others; rejoice when they succeed; serve humbly with simple acts for the honor of Christ.

- Greatness in the Kingdom Consists *not* in Position but in Service.
 - God doesn't care about status or comparisons
 - God looks for faithfulness, humility, service & love.
 - Look for the small ways to serve (greet, pray, hospitality, dessert)
 - Don't compare *horizontally*; focus *vertically* & rejoice that God's plan/church is bigger than *us*

"This is the only way to get to the front of Christ's army—he who would be chief, must always be aiming at the rear rank, willing to do the most humble service and to be the lowest menial in his Master's service. Only in this way can we rise. In Christ's Kingdom, the way to go up is to go down. Sink self and you shall surely rise." (Charles Spurgeon)

THE MARKS OF A HUMBLE MAN:

- **Not boastful.** Even if he or she earned "boasting rights", you won't find the humble person bragging. When he does speak about his accomplishments, he will point out the people that helped him get there so that the spotlight is on them rather than himself. He will also give God the glory and credit.
- **A listener.** It has been said that God gave us 2 ears and 1 mouth so that we could listen twice as much as we speak. The humble man or woman is an active listener with a genuine concern for what the other person is saying and/or feeling.
- **Follow's God's lead.** The humble person isn't leading God along in her own personal plans for her life, rather she allows herself to be led by God and obediently follows His plan for her life.
- **Doesn't give up.** Humble people are able to keep trying no matter how many times they fall down.
- **Willingly serves others.** Not only did Jesus say the greatest person is humble, but that they also servant of all. Jesus demonstrated this by washing the disciples feet. If you know anything at all about Jewish customs, then

Mark 9:33-41 — "True Greatness Revealed in Serving & Non-Jealous Attitudes"

you know that foot washing was the task of the lowest of the low ranking servants. Yet the Son of God, King of kings humbly knelt down and wash the feet of His disciples. I

- **Tenderhearted and forgiving.** Tenderhearted is the capacity to be kind and gentle. It doesn't mean he allows others to "walk over" him or take advantage of him, but that even when he needs to be firm it is done with kindness and gentleness. The humble person is also willing to forgive others because she knows that she has made her own share of mistakes and is grateful of Christ's forgiveness towards her so she is then able to extend forgiveness towards others.
- **Correctable.** People who are full of pride do not accept correction from others. They will pass the blame elsewhere or have a million excuses but they won't accept their own fault. They are defensive and argumentative as they try to convince others they are right. The humble person is *teachable*. When he recognizes a mistake or someone points out a mistake, his response is, "teach me." He has a genuine desire to learn from his mistakes and knows that as he learns, he's another step closer to success.
- **Christ follower.** Humility is impossible if we are not following Christ because it is only then that we recognize God's greatness and realize just how "fallen" and "broken" we are. The more we know about God, the more we are able to realize just how sinful we are. As a follower of Christ, we strive to be like Him so that all we do and say points people to Him – not to our self.

Further, a humble person...

1. Doesn't need to be loud, outspoken, ostentatious.
2. Doesn't yearn for **his** name to be called in public when he did something well.
3. Doesn't **compete** with others who are also doing tasks/duties.
4. Doesn't size people up based upon externals and compare himself with them.
5. Doesn't think that any service opportunity is *too small or beneath him*.
6. Doesn't want recognition or honors for what he does.
7. Is happy when others get credit — even for what he himself did!
8. Doesn't need to be the one with all the answers
9. Doesn't need to interject his opinion (even if it's accurate) all the time.
10. Is happy to serve, back off, and go completely unnoticed.

THE MARKS OF A PROUD, ARROGANT, JUDGMENTAL, COMPETITIVE MAN:

- A lack of gratitude in general -- proud people usually think they deserve good & so they see no reason to be thankful & thus they don't express gratitude to God or to others.
- Anger -- proud people are angry people. One's anger can include outbursts of rage, withdrawal, pouting, frustration (or, being 'moody'). Why? Because his expectations are NOT being met.
- Seeing yourself better than others -- a proud person is on TOP looking down upon others. He gets disgusted and has little tolerance for differences.
- You have an inflated view of your importance, gifts, and abilities --
- You talk too much -- people who are proud often talk too much because they think that what they have to say is more important than what others have to say. When there are many words, sin is generally unavoidable (Prov 10.19)
- Seeking independence or control -- proud people find it difficult to work under someone else or submit to authority. They want to be their own boss.
- Being consumed with what others think -- this is a subtle form of pride because many are in a constant pursuit of gaining the approval of others

Mark 9:33-41 — "True Greatness Revealed in Serving & Non-Jealous Attitudes"

- Being sarcastic, hurtful or degrading -- proud people are unkind people. They belittle others because they want to raise themselves up above others & this kind often occurs in jesting, joking, mocking, and with sarcasm.
- Maximizing others' sins and shortcomings -- the proud person sees others and their sins as the problems. They magnify or bring attention to the sins of others by gossiping about them to others (or to themselves)
- Being jealous or envious -- proud people are jealous people because they have a hard time being glad & rejoicing in the successes or blessings of others.
- Irritable and impatient with others -- proud people are angry with others b/c they are concerned that their own schedule or plans are being ruined when others don't meet their expectations.

JERUSALEM

See Him in Jerusalem
 Walking where the crowds are
 Once these streets had sung to Him
 Now they cry for murder
 Such a frail and lonely man
 Holding up the heavy cross
 See Him walking in Jerusalem
 On the road to save us

See him there upon the hill
 Hear the scorn and laughter
 Silent as a lamb he waits
 Praying to the father
 See the king who made the sun
 And the moon and shining stars
 Let the soldiers hold and nail him down
 So that he could save them

See him there upon the cross
 Now no longer breathing
 Dust that formed the watching crowds
 Takes the blood of Jesus
 Feel the earth is shaking now
 See the veil is split in two
 And he stood before the wrath of God
 Shielding sinners with his blood

See the empty tomb today
 Death could not contain him
 Once the servant of the world
 Now in victory reigning
 Lift your voices to the one
 Who is seated on the throne
 See him in the new Jerusalem
 Praise the one who saved us

BENEATH THE CROSS

Beneath the cross of Jesus
 I find a place to stand,
 And wonder at such mercy
 That calls me as I am;
 For hands that should discard me
 Hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
 Beneath the cross of Jesus
 My unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus
 His family is my own—
 Once strangers chasing selfish dreams,
 Now one through grace alone.
 How could I now dishonor

The ones that You have loved?
 Beneath the cross of Jesus
 See the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus—
 The path before the crown—
 We follow in His footsteps
 Where promised hope is found.
 How great the joy before us
 To be His perfect bride;
 Beneath the cross of Jesus
 We will gladly live our lives.