

“How to Be Great; According to Jesus”

Luke 22:24-28

²⁴ Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.

²⁵ And He said to them, "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. ²⁸

"But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. (Luke 22:24-28 NKJ)

A message upon the occasion of installing a new elder and deacon, it is a message for them, a charge to them, but it also applies to our current elders and deacons and really to all of us as we seek to faithfully serve Christ and each other –

*We are skipping ahead a bit in Luke22, we have passed:
The announcement of the Passover, the Scribes desire to kill Jesus, Satan's entering Judas, and his willingness to betray Christ – Luke 22:1-6*

The preparation for the Passover – Luke 22:7-13

The Passover, the Lord's Supper and Judas' betrayal – Luke 22:14-23

“I am the greatest” – Muhammad Ali

Being GREAT in our world often is based on a person's ability to knock another person down or out!

Being GREAT in Jesus' eyes is something completely different -

I. Beware of Pride –

²⁴ **Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. (Luke 22:24 NKJ)**

1. Beware of pride
2. PRIDE is inward factor/ danger –

A. It is a satanic downfall that comes often with high position –

¹² **"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!
¹³ For you have said in your heart: `I will ascend into heaven, I will
exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of
the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend
above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' ¹⁵ Yet
you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.
(Isaiah 14:12-15 NKJ)**

B. Note it starts with self-talk in the heart "I will ascend..." "Isaiah 14:13-14

C. It is often spurred by praise from others –

²¹ **So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne
and gave an oration to them. ²² And the people kept shouting, "The
voice of a god and not of a man!" ²³ Then immediately an angel of the
Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was
eaten by worms and died. (Act 12:21-23 NKJ)**

3. Pride takes us away from God's grace –

⁶ **But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud,
but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6 NKJ)**

¹⁰ **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
(James 4:10 NKJ)**

II. Watch out for worldliness –

²⁵ **And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship
over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called
`benefactors.' (Luke 22:25 NKJ)**

1. Worldly leaders are all about pomp & pride
2. Worldly leaders hoard riches for themselves
3. Worldly leaders make others their personal servants / their own personal pleasure is their first priority
4. They are called "benefactors" but they do not live up to such a name

III. Seek to Serve –

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. (Luke 22:26 NKJ)

If your thoughts about “why I want to be an elder or deacon?” Are “I like ruling over people” “I like bossing people around” YOU will not be a fit for the church of Jesus Christ!

The word “Presbyterian” means elder or elder rule and we have an office in our church called “ruling elder.”

Consider how the NIV translates this verse -

^{NIV} **Luke 22:26** But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. (Luke 22:26 NIV)

1. *Jesus is not anti-rule, in the sense some might take it as anti-RULES, anti-LAWS–*
2. *Elders are supposed to rule and that rule should be respected –*

¹⁷ **Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. (1Ti 5:17 NKJ)**

¹⁷ **Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (Hebrews 13:17 NKJ)**

3. *Yet, we are required to rule in a certain way –*

²⁸ **"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28 NKJ)**

A. *First guarding ourselves*

B. *Guarding the flock, as those whom Jesus bought with His blood*

- *If they are worthy of Jesus service, death & self-sacrifice, they are worthy of yours*

4. *This applies to deacons as well, the word “serves” in this passage is the verb form of the word deacon –*

διακονέω **diakoneo {dee-ak-on-eh'-o}**

**Meaning: 1)) to be a servant, attendant, domestic, to serve, wait upon
1a) to minister to one, render ministering offices to 1a1) to be served,
ministered unto 1b) to wait at a table and offer food and drink to the
guests, 1b1) of women preparing food 1c) to minister i.e. supply food
and necessities of life 1c1) to relieve one's necessities (e.g. by
collecting alms), to provide take care of, distribute, the things
necessary to sustain life 1c2) to take care of the poor and the sick,
who administer the office of a deacon 1c3) in Christian churches to
serve as deacons 1d) to minister 1d1) to attend to anything, that may
serve another's interests 1d2) to minister a thing to one, to serve one
or by supplying any thing**

IV. Seek to be like Jesus –

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. ²⁸ "But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. (Luke 22:27-28 NKJ)**

1. Jesus was and is the King of kings and LORD of lords and yet He was willing to wash the disciple's feet –

"Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ "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.

¹⁵ **"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. (John 13:12-17 NKJ)**

2. This is a command for all of us –

^{NKJ} **Philippians 2:1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,**

² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being of one accord, of one mind.* ³ *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. ⁸ 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.* (Philippians 2:1-8 NKJ)

3. *This is the PURPOSE God has called us to –*

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.* (Rom 8:28-29 NKJ)

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