



What God Calls Great

5.21.2023

Then the mother of James and John came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. "What is your request?" he asked. She replied, "In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left."

But Jesus answered by saying to them, "You don't know what you are asking. Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?" "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able." When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were really bothered. But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be **great** among you must be your **servant**." -Jesus, Matthew 20:20-27

It was now just before the Passover Feast, and Jesus knew that His hour had come to leave this world and return to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the very end. Jesus knew that the Father had delivered all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was returning to God. So He got up from the supper, laid aside His outer garments, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel that was around Him. John 13:1-5

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." -Jesus, John 13:14-15

Questions to help us get to greatness...

Do I see myself as a servant?

Have I let God rebuild who I am?

Jesus knew that the Father had delivered all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was returning to God. John 13:3

Have I let Jesus serve me?

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will

understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." John 13:6-8

Do I let others serve me?

Can I serve when no one sees?

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5-8

Their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do. 2 Corinthians 5:8

For your LifeGroup and growth time.

We are talking about being 'great' in God's kingdom. How does being a servant "make you great"?

Read John 13:1-17. This is right before the Last Supper—how do you think Jesus must have felt?

Why do you think none of the disciples felt led to wash feet?

How do you think they felt when Jesus got up to do it?

How does a bad self-image hinder a person's ability to be a servant (and how does a good one help)?

Go through your day (getting up, interacting with family, commuting, work/school, coming home, etc.). How could you have done things different with a commitment to total servanthood?

Why do we like to serve when others watch?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:8. What does that mean to you?

Pray together and support each other!

If you'd like to grow in your faith and connect with others, LifeGroups are a great place for you. For more information, drop us your name and we'll get back to you (emma@marinerscc.org)