

Sermon Title: True Greatness– Becoming Like a Child

Scripture: Matthew 18:1-4, John 3:3-8, Philippians 2:5-11

Speaker: Noah Tindale



Where does true greatness come from?

The Temptation –

“I need to make things great myself”

“I need to keep things great myself”

“I am great by myself”

“We need to make things great ourselves”

“We need to keep things great ourselves”

“We are great ourselves”

_____ is a desire of the human heart

_____ has distorted greatness

Greatness in the eyes of the world:

A self-centered life

Fame

Riches

Power

Greed

Envy

Greatness in the eyes of God

“A God-centered life”

Humility

Love

Patience

Faithfulness

Joy

Sacrifice

When people look at Princetown Church, how is the greatness of God shown?

How do we continue to be _____ as Princetown Church?

How do you continue to be _____ as a follower of Jesus?

Matthew 18:1

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, **“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”**

Mark 9:33-34

33 And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house **he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?”** 34 But they kept silent, for on the way **they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.**

Mark 10:35-40

35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, **“Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”** 36 And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” 37 And they said to him, **“Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”** 38 Jesus said to them, **“You do not know what you are asking.** Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” 39 And they said to him, “We are able.” And

Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, 40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

The Disciples were asking their questions about greatness **with the wrong, “me” centered motives.**

Matthew 18:1

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

Matthew 18:2-3

2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, “Truly, I say to you, **unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**

John 3:3-8

3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.** 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 **Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’** 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. **So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”**

Matthew 18:3

3 and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn **and become like children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

You and I were bought with a price.

Nothing we ever do or don’t do has ever been the thing to save us.

Our salvation has always been Jesus.

Matthew 18:4

4 Whoever **humbles** himself like this child **is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

The greatest in the kingdom, then, is the one who is most humble, most aware of his or her lack of power, most dependent on God to provide all that is needed.

—Bible Ref Commentary

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 18:4

4 Whoever **humbles** himself like this child **is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

What makes us great and keeps us doing great things has nothing to do with our own power.

It has everything to do with the saving power of Jesus and our response of dependence and humility.

Will you humbly recognize your need for dependence on Jesus, today and every day, for your salvation and growth?

Romans 8

Discussion Questions - April 28 - True Greatness

1. What were your initial thoughts about the topic of the message today?
2. What are one or a few things that you have seen God doing within the life of Princetown Church that have impacted your faith? How about things that you have seen God doing in your personal, family, or work life? How have you seen God's greatness at work?
3. When you think about a great person, who are some examples that come to mind? What qualities label them as great?
4. What are some destructive things that the world labels or values as "great"? Why are these things counter to the gospel of Jesus?
5. How do we, as Christians, live our lives as "God-centered" instead of as "me-centered"?

Read Matthew 18:1-4 - Humility & a Childlike Dependence on God

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

6. What was something from this particular passage that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?
7. The disciples had a tendency to argue about which one of them was the greatest in God's Kingdom. Why was Jesus' response in verses 2-4 to their question in verse 1 so powerful?
8. It's been said that humility is not thinking too highly of yourself nor thinking too low of yourself, but thinking of yourself just as God has made you. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
9. In what way(s) should we become like children in our faith?

Read John 3:3-8

3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again[a] he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.[b] 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You[c] must be born again.' 8 The wind[d] blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

10. What does it mean to be “born again”?

11. Jesus says that “unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” What does this mean in the context of being saved?

12. What are some ways that you have seen God change your life since becoming a Christian? How have you relied on him more as a child in need of Him?

Read Philippians 2:5-11

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,[a] 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,[b] 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,[c] being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

13. Jesus embodied humility in the way He lived on earth. Though he was God, He willingly emptied himself as a human being, serving and saving us from sin, even unto his own death. What does this show about God’s heart for us?

14. When you think of humility in your own life, do you find yourself trying to be more humble on your own power, or through depending on God to reorient you?

15. When you think about greatness in light of today’s message, how does having humility better prepare you to serve others?

16. As you go, what is one way that you can depend more on God this week?