

Compelling Portrait Part 7: Letting Go of Greatness

Objective: To challenge us to let go of our view of greatness and embrace the humility of God's Kingdom.

Read together:

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” 34 But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

36 He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, 37 “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

Mark 9:33-37

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Matthew 18:1-4

- Mark tells us that Jesus' disciples were arguing over who was the greatest. Have you ever seen anything like that happen at work, at home, at church, or wherever? How were those involved defining 'greatness'?
- When you think of 'greatness' what comes to mind?
- Why do you think being great (popular, well-known, rich, powerful, etc.) is so important to people in our culture?
- Why do you think Jesus chose a little child as the defining image of what it looks like to be a part of his kingdom?
- What is it about children that embodies Jesus' view of greatness?
- In Jesus' Kingdom, greatness is achieved through wielding a towel rather than a sword.
 - We obviously don't use a sword to get our way today. What are some different ways we coerce others to do what we want?
 - We also don't do much foot washing in our society today. So what does it look like to selflessly serve others?

Final Thought: We will never be great until we let go of our ideas of greatness and pick up Jesus' definition of it.

This Week: Who do you need to serve, not to change their way of thinking or to influence them, but simply to show the love of Jesus to them.

