

## **Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions: Love Does Not Seek its Own**

What does greatness look like in the world today? In what ways does this idea of greatness contrast God's idea of greatness?

What reasons might the world have for serving others? Conversely, what reasons does God urge us to serve others?

In Christ's kingdom servanthood is the key to greatness, not position or influence. This varies greatly from the idea of greatness in our culture. In the business world, for example, greatness comes from ambition, drive, energy, or ability. Jesus, however, said the truly great in heaven—the servants—will be those who are humble.

### **GREATNESS DEFINED**

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 20:20-28.

How does Jesus define greatness?

Do you believe that Christians today have a proper understanding of selfless love in servanthood? Explain.

According to this passage, who is our example for servanthood?

Why might the world hold a low view of servanthood nowadays?

In what ways are you defining greatness to those closest to you?

### **GREATNESS DEMONSTRATED**

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 13:1-17

How does Jesus demonstrate greatness?

Washing feet was a task usually done by the lowliest of servants. When guests arrived for a meal, they were provided water to wash the dirt off their feet from walking. By laying aside His clothing, wrapping a towel around Himself, pouring water into a basin, and washing the feet of His disciples, Jesus demonstrated a love that was willing to serve. Jesus, the King of the universe, laid aside His rightful position and took the role of a servant for His friends. So should we.

Jesus didn't wait for anyone to say, "Hey, my feet are dirty." He saw the need and stepped up to meet it. Why is it important that we take the initiative to serve?

When has someone taken the initiative to serve you? How did you feel about that?

### **GREATNESS DELIVERED**

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 3:16-17

How did Jesus deliver greatness on the cross? What did Jesus say on the cross that further illustrated his selfless love?

Why do you think this verse is probably the most popular in the Bible? What does it say about the nature of God and the nature of love?  
How can we deliver this type of love in our lives?

#### APPLICATION

In what ways are you emphasizing God's idea of greatness in your home, church, workplace, etc?

When are people most interested in serving others? How can we use these opportunities to teach others about the servant mind of Christ?

#### PRAYER

Thank the Lord for coming to us as a servant. Pray that He will help you understand the level of love and service displayed by Christ so that you can imitate Him as you love and serve others.