

SLIDE 1

INTRO:

ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES, IN THE SUMMER OF 1994, A VIRGINIA STATE TROOPER, WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE BOMB SQUAD, AND HIS DOG, MASTER BLASTER, BECAME LOCAL CELEBRITIES WHEN THEY FOUND BOMBS AT MALLS IN HAMPTON AND VIRGINIA BEACH. THAT BIT OF CELEBRITY EVIDENTLY WENT TO THE STATE TROOPER'S HEAD. A HIDDEN CAMERA LATER RECORDED HIM PLACING A BOMB IN A SHED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO SEARCH FOR EXPLOSIVES. HE WAS ARRESTED AND LATER PLED GUILTY TO PLANTING EXPLOSIVES AT TWO MALLS, A COURTHOUSE, AND A COLISEUM. HE TOLD INVESTIGATORS HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO HURT ANYONE. THE BOMBS—A CARDBOARD TUBE FILLED WITH EXPLOSIVES, AND PIPES FILLED WITH GUNPOWDER AND NAILS—NEVER EXPLODED. HE SAID HE WAS SIMPLY TRYING TO ENHANCE HIS IMAGE.
Q. IS'NT IT AMAZING THAT WHEN WE ARE IN THE GRIPS OF SELFISH AMBITION, WE CAN RATIONALIZE ALMOST ANYTHING?

==SELFISH AMBITION (WHICH MANY TIMES IS SEEN IN SELF-PROMOTION) IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL —AND POTENTIALLY DESTRUCTIVE—MOTIVATIONS WE CAN HAVE. (JESUS' DISCIPLES STRUGGLED WITH THIS AND HAD TO LEARN SOME LESSONS FROM JESUS ABOUT IT)

>>MANY PEOPLE TODAY ARE FOCUSED ON "MAKING A NAME FOR THEMSELVES" OR BEING GREAT IN THE EYES OF OTHERS>

@FOR US AS BELIEVER'S IN CHRIST @WE ALL WANT TO DO GREAT THINGS FOR GOD BUT THE DANGER IS TO GO ABOUT IT BY SELF-PROMOTION INSTEAD OF SIMPLY FOLLOWING JESUS' LEAD>

>TODAY IN OUR TEXT JESUS DEALS WITH HIS DISCIPLES EGO BY POINTING THEM IN THE DIRECTION OF>

TITLE SLIDE 2

QUOTE: R. KENT HUGHES "GREATNESS IS NOT MERELY THE POSSESSION OF THOSE WHO ASSOCIATE WITH THE GREAT. RATHER, IT IS A GIFT OF GOD TO THOSE WHO RECEIVE AND SERVE THE LOWLY."

>@ IT'S INTERESTING THESE DAYS, BUT NOT NEW, AS TO THE POPULAR CONCEPTIONS OF GREATNESS>

@@PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN GREATNESS TO VARYING DEGREES.

===IT IS ENOUGH FOR SOME PEOPLE TO SIMPLY BE ACCEPTED AND APPROVED BY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS; THAT IS ENOUGH GREATNESS FOR THEM.

=STILL OTHERS WANT MORE: TO BE ELEVATED TO A PARTICULAR POSITION, TO LIVE IN A PARTICULAR NEIGHBORHOOD, TO OWN A CERTAIN KIND OF CAR, TO HOLD A PARTICULAR CLUB MEMBERSHIP—THEY WANT SOMETHING THAT GIVES THEM GREATER RECOGNITION AND GREATER PRESTIGE.

>>BECAUSE OF PRIDE MANY PEOPLE CRAVE FOR MORE GREATNESS THAN OTHERS. >>SOME CRAVE THE GREATNESS OF AUTHORITY AND RULE, OF POWER AND FAME, OF POSITION AND WEALTH. THEY WANT THE PRESTIGE AND HONOR AND RECOGNITION FAR ABOVE THE ORDINARY.

@IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT, AS WE LIVE IN AN EGO
DRIVEN CULTURE, TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLICAL
PRINCIPLES OF GREATNESS>

CONTEXT:

>>THIS RIGHT BEFORE HIS ARREST, TRIAL AND
CRUCIFIXION>

>>LAST SECTION VS.7-23 (THE UPPER ROOM)

>NOW THERE ARE 3 WAYS THAT JESUS REDIRECTS
HIS DISCIPLES AWAY FROM WORLDLY GREATNESS TO
"TRUE GREATNESS"

>3 THINGS THEY NEEDED TO LEARN TO BE GREAT
FOR THE LORD AND HIS GLORY>

OUTLINE:

>>SO HERE IN THESE VERSES TODAY>JESUS
REVEALED THE DISCIPLES' WORLDLINESS (VV. 24-30).

==THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME THE DISCIPLES HAD
COMMITTED THIS SIN (MATT. 20:20-28; MARK 9:33-37;
LUKE 9:46-48), BUT IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT THEIR
LORD HAD SAID AND DONE THAT EVENING, THIS
LATEST EXHIBITION WAS INEXCUSABLE.

=PERHAPS THE ARGUMENT GREW OUT OF THEIR
SPECULATING OVER WHO WOULD BETRAY HIM, OR
THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME JEALOUSY OVER THE
WAY THEY HAD BEEN SEATED AT THE TABLE.

>>THE FACT IS >WHEN YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
PROMOTING YOURSELF, IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO
START AN ARGUMENT.

SLIDE 3

>SO FIRST, TRUE GREATNESS STARTS WITH>>

1. **A SOUND PERSPECTIVE VS.24-26 READ**
2. **SLIDE 4-6**

3. **SLIDE 7**

>>SPECIFICALLY THE DISCIPLES NEEDED A PERSPECTIVE THAT WAS LESS ABOUT THEMSELVES AND MORE ABOUT THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM>

>>>A SOUND PERSPECTIVE WHEN IT COMES TO

A. HUMILITY VS.24A

B. LEADERSHIP VS.24B

==JESUS HAD TO EXPLAIN THAT THEY WERE THINKING LIKE THE UNSAVED GENTILES AND NOT LIKE GOD'S CHILDREN.

==THE ROMANS IN PARTICULAR VIED FOR HONORS AND DID ALL THEY COULD, LEGALLY AND ILLEGALLY, TO WIN PROMOTION AND RECOGNITION, BUT THEY ARE NOT THE EXAMPLES FOR US TO FOLLOW. AS IN ALL THINGS, JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE, AND HE HAS COMPLETELY REVERSED THE MEASURE OF TRUE GREATNESS.

>SO THEY NEEDED A.S.P.> **SLIDE 8**

A. **WHEN IT CAME TO HUMILITY VS.24**

1. **VS.24** "NOW THERE WAS ALSO A DISPUTE AMONG THEM, AS TO WHICH OF THEM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED THE GREATEST." **SLIDE 9**

2. DISPUTE: SPEAKS OF AN EAGER CONTENTION, QUARRELSOME

3. >>>THESE GUYS WERE FIGHTING, YET AGAIN, OVER WHO WOULD BE THE GREATEST DISCIPLE>

4. === IT'S ALMOST FRIGHTENING TO THINK THAT AFTER JESUS HAS Poured THREE YEARS OF HIS LIFE INTO THESE MEN; AFTER THEY HAVE SEEN THE CHARACTER OF JESUS ON DISPLAY IN ALMOST EVERY CONCEIVABLE CIRCUMSTANCE; THAT NOW, AT THE FINAL HOURS BEFORE HIS BETRAYAL, ARREST, AND CRUCIFIXION, THEY ARE ARGUING - ABOUT WHICH OF THEM IS THE GREATEST!

5. >>WE MIGHT THINK THAT JESUS SHOULD HAVE SETTLED THE ISSUE BY SAYING, "HEY KNUCKLEHEADS - I'M THE GREATEST!"
6. ==INSTEAD, JESUS ANSWERED THEIR QUESTION BY WHAT HE DID.
7. REF: ACCORDING TO >>>JOHN 13:3-5 >>TELLS US THAT JESUS WASHED THEIR FEET AFTER SUPPER, AND HE MAY HAVE SPOKEN THESE WORDS ABOUT TRUE GREATNESS WHILE HE WAS WASHING THEIR FEET, OR AFTER HE WAS FINISHED.
8. ==IN FACT, THE SUPREME PATIENCE OF JESUS IS DISPLAYED IN HIS GENTLE CORRECTION OF HIS SQUABBLING DISCIPLES. AFTER ALL - DIDN'T HE HAVE ENOUGH ON HIS MIND?
9. >>>THE FACT WAS THESE DISCIPLES, JUST LIKE ALL DISCIPLES TODAY, NEED A HUMBLE PERSPECTIVE ABOUT SERVING THE LORD>

>THEY ALSO NEEDED A.S.P.>

- B. WHEN IT COMES TO LEADERSHIP VS.25-26 SLIDE 10
1. VS.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.'"===THIS IS WORDLY LEADERSHIP===== SLIDE 11
2. ==THE WORLD EXERCISES AUTHORITY AND POWER WITH A CERTAIN STYLE, ALL OF IT ULTIMATELY SELF-EXALTING. BUT JESUS WASN'T LIKE THAT, AND NEITHER SHOULD HIS FOLLOWERS BE.
3. =THE IDEA OF BEING CALLED **BENEFACTORS** IS REALLY THE IDEA OF GETTING CREDIT. MANY PEOPLE ONLY WILL "SERVE" IF THEY CAN BE ASSURED OF GETTING PROPER CREDIT.

4. >>>JESUS HERE CONTRASTS WORLDLY GREATNESS AND GODLY GREATNESS IN TERMS OF LEADERSHIP>
5. >JESUS POINTS OUT THAT THE WORLD'S ATTITUDE ABOUT GREATNESS INVOLVES TWO KEY IDEAS.
6. ==#1. THE IDEA THAT GREATNESS IS HOLDING AUTHORITY OVER PEOPLE OR LORDING IT OVER PEOPLE:
7. ==HOLDING POSITION AND AUTHORITY, INFLUENCE AND POWER, RANK AND DOMINION, MONEY AND PROPERTY.
8. =MEN SEEK POSITION AND WEALTH FOR THE SAKE OF POWER.
9. =THEY WANT TO RULE OR MANAGE PEOPLE, EXERCISE AUTHORITY OVER THEM, AND CONTROL THEIR LIVES.
10. ==#2 THE IDEA OF BEING KNOWN AND CALLED A BENEFACTOR, A MAN WHO GIVES AND HELPS OTHERS.
- 11.>IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THE WORD "CALLED" IN AT THE END OF VS.25>
- 12.>>THE THOUGHT HERE FROM JESUS IS THAT THE WORLDLY BENEFACTOR WANTS TO BE KNOWN AND CALLED A BENEFACTOR, RECOGNIZED AND HONORED FOR HIS HELP AND CONTRIBUTION.
- 13.==HE DESIRES TO BE KNOWN AS A GREAT MAN, A MAN WHO IS GENEROUS, THOUGHTFUL, CONCERNED, HONORABLE.
- 14.>>>OF COURSE THE BIBLE HAS MANY WARNINGS ABOUT HAVING AN EGO DRIVEN, OR SELF EXALTING ATTITUDES ABOUT LEADING PEOPLE>
- 15.>>JESUS REBUKED THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR THIS ATTITUDE> **SLIDE 12**
- 16.**REF:** JOHN 5:44 "HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE, WHO RECEIVE HONOR FROM ONE ANOTHER, AND DO

NOT SEEK THE HONOR THAT COMES FROM THE ONLY GOD?" **SLIDE 13 (MAYBE)**

SLIDE 14

17. **VS.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." **===THIS IS SERVANT LEADERSHIP===**

SLIDE 15

- 18.>>SO>>JESUS MAKES IT CLEAR WITH THOSE WORDS>>>"BUT NOT SO AMONG YOU..."
- 19.>>>JESUS IS SAYING HERE DON'T BE A WORDLY LEADER BE A SERVANT LEADER>>
- 20.>>>THIS SHOULD NOT BE THE PERSPECTIVE OF HIS FOLLOWERS, HIS DISCIPLES>
- 21.===YOU SEE >THE LORD REJECTED THE WORLD'S ATTITUDE ABOUT LEADERSHIP OR BEING GREAT AND TELLING PEOPLE WHAT TO DO.
- 22.>>TRUE GREATNESS DOES NOT SEEK TO HOLD AUTHORITY NOR TO LORD IT OVER PEOPLE; IT DOES NOT SEEK POSITION FOR THE SAKE OF AUTHORITY AND POWER, NOR TO GIVE AND HELP FOR THE SAKE OF BEING KNOWN AND CALLED A BENEFACTOR.
- 23.>>TRUE GREATNESS IS NOT SELF-CENTERED AND SELFISH, NOT WORLDLY-MINDED.
- 24.>>NOTE A CRUCIAL POINT: JESUS DID NOT FORBID A MAN FROM HOLDING A POSITION OF GREATNESS OR AUTHORITY.
- 25.==WHAT HE WAS DOING WAS GIVING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PERSON WHO IS "GREATEST AMONG YOU" (LUKE 22:26).
- 26.==SO JESUS SAYS THE **GREATEST** SHOULD BE LIKE THE **YOUNGER** (THE ONE WHO DIDN'T HAVE A STAKE IN THE SYSTEM, THE OUTCAST), AND THE

ONE WHO GOVERNS SHOULD BE LIKE ONE WHO SERVES.

- 27.>SO THE LORD'S ATTITUDE ABOUT GREATNESS INVOLVES TWO IMPORTANT IDEAS>==ACTING AS THE "1.YOUNGER" AND "2.SERVANT"
 - 28.#1>THE IDEA OF ACTING AS THE "YOUNGEST", THAT IS, OF TAKING THE LAST SEAT, OF ASSUMING THE LOWLIEST POSITION.
 - 29.>>THE IDEA HAVING A LOWLY ATTITUDE OR PERSPECTIVE>
 - 30.===IN THE ANCIENT WORLD, THE YOUNGER ALWAYS HONORED AND GAVE WAY TO THE OLDER. AGE WAS LOOKED UP TO AND HONORED.
 - 31.=====JESUS WAS SAYING THAT THE PERSON WHO WAS TRULY GREAT WAS THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE LOWEST SEAT AND LAST PLACE,
 - 32.>>>THE IDEA IS THE PERSON DID'NT SEEK THE RECOGNITION AND HONOR, THE CREDIT AND ESTEEM BECAUSE THEY HELD SOME POSITION OR HAD DONE SOME SPECIAL WORK OR MADE SOME UNUSUAL GIFT OR GIVEN SOME EXTRAORDINARY HELP.
 33. >>PAUL WARNS BELIEVERS IN>
SLIDE 16-17
 - 34.REF: ROMANS 12:3-4 "FOR I SAY, THROUGH THE GRACE GIVEN TO ME, TO EVERYONE WHO IS AMONG YOU, NOT TO THINK OF HIMSELF MORE HIGHLY THAN HE OUGHT TO THINK, BUT TO THINK SOBERLY, AS GOD HAS DEALT TO EACH ONE A MEASURE OF FAITH. FOR AS WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS IN ONE BODY, BUT ALL THE MEMBERS DO NOT HAVE THE SAME FUNCTION,"
- SLIDE 18**
- 35.#2 THERE IS THE IDEA OF ACTING AS A SERVANT.

- 36.>>THE IDEA OF SEEING AUTHORITY AS A CHANCE TO SERVE OTHERS>
- 37.==THE CHIEF PERSON IS TO SERVE. THE PICTURE JESUS PAINTED IS DESCRIPTIVE.
- 38.==THE TRULY GREAT MAN WILL "SERVE" OTHERS JUST AS A TABLE WAITER SERVES THE GUESTS AT A BANQUET.
- 39.==THE TABLE WAITER IN JESUS' DAY WAS A BOND-SLAVE (DOULOS). THE BOND-SLAVE WAS BOUND EVERY MOMENT OF HIS LIFE, ALWAYS SERVING, NO MATTER THE HOUR OR CALL OR DIFFICULTY
- 40.>>>THE TRULY GREAT PERSON LOOKS FOR PEOPLE TO HELP AND FOR WAYS TO HELP THEM, WHETHER AT WORK, HOME, PLAY, OR CHURCH. HE IS ALWAYS SEEKING THOSE WHO NEED A VISIT, CARE, ATTENTION, COMPANY, FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER, MONEY. HE SEEKS FOR THE SAKE OF MINISTERING>>>THIS IS WHY PAUL ENCOURAGED THE PHILIPPIANS>>

SLIDE 19

- 41.**REF**: PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4 "LET NOTHING BE DONE THROUGH SELFISH AMBITION OR CONCEIT, BUT IN LOWLINESS OF MIND LET EACH ESTEEM OTHERS BETTER THAN HIMSELF. LET EACH OF YOU LOOK OUT NOT ONLY FOR HIS OWN INTERESTS, BUT ALSO FOR THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS."

SLIDE 20

- 42.>>IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ANYONE WHO LEADS OTHERS TO KEEP IN MIND THE THINGS JESUS HAS SAID HERE>
- 43.>>>>ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO LEADING OTHERS SPIRITUALLY>
- 44.@@WE NEED TO ASK OURSELVES>
- 45.Q. HOW DO WE FEEL WHEN OTHERS ASCEND TO POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND WE DO NOT?

46.Q. HOW DO WE FEEL WHEN SOMEONE SURPASSES US IN OUR ABILITY TO LEAD OR TEACH? OR IF SOMEONE IS HONORED WHERE WE WOULD LIKE TO BE HONORED?

47.===EVEN MORE REVEALING, HOW DO WE FEEL WHEN WE BECOME AWARE OF SUCH A PERSON FALLING INTO SIN>>DO WE SECRETLY REJOICE?

48.===THE FACT IS SELF-IMPORTANCE IS A CANCEROUS SIN>>EGO IS DANGEROUS>

>>>SO JESUS IS SAYING VERY CLEARLY TO HIS DISCIPLES HERE DON'T LEAD THE WAY THE WORLD AROUND YOU LEADS IF YOU WANT TO BE GREAT

>>JESUS WANTED THE DISCIPLES TO HAVE HUMILITY AND SEE THEIR MINISTRY FOR THE LORD AS A CHANCE TO BUILD OTHERS UP AND PROMOTE THE GLORY OF GOD>

SLIDE 21

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES SAID "ONE OF THE MARKS OF TRUE GREATNESS IS THE ABILITY TO DEVELOP GREATNESS IN OTHERS."

SLIDE 22

>>>THERE WAS A NEED FOR A SOUND PERSPECTIVE IN THE MINISTRY THEY WOULD SOON BE DOING A WHOLE LOT MORE OF>

@FOR ANY DISCIPLE TO BE "GREAT" THEY HAVE TO HAVE A SOUND/GROUNDED PERSPECTIVE>

>TRUE GREATNESS ALSO HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH HAVING>**SLIDE 23 – SLIDE 24**

2. A SERVANTS HEART VS.27 **READ**

>IT'S BEEN SAID THAT "TRUE GREATNESS IS IN SERVICE, NOT IN RANK."

>>>THAT'S SORT OF AT THE HEART OF VS.27>

SLIDE 25

==TRUE GREATNESS MEANS TO BE LIKE JESUS, AND THAT MEANS BEING A SERVANT TO OTHERS.

==A SERVANT DOES NOT ARGUE OVER WHO IS THE GREATEST, BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT HE IS THE LEAST, AND HE ACCEPTS THIS FROM THE HAND OF GOD.

==SINCE ALL CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE SERVANTS, THERE IS NO REASON FOR US TO COMPETE WITH ONE ANOTHER FOR HONORS AND RECOGNITION.

>HAVING A.S.H. REALLY SIMPLY MEANS> **SLIDE 26**

A. FOLLOWING JESUS' EXAMPLE VS.27

1. **VS.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."

SLIDE 27

2. NOTICE JESUS' QUESTION & ANSWER HERE>
3. Q. WHY DID HE ASK THIS QUESTION?
4. >>>JESUS ASKED THIS QUESTION TO EXPOSE THE DISCIPLES WRONG VIEW OF GREATNESS>>
5. **==THE TRUTH IS** THE WORLD REGARDS THE ONE WHO IS SERVED AS **GREATER**, BUT JESUS SHOWED US THAT TRUE GREATNESS IS IN SERVING, MORE THAN IN BEING SERVED.
6. >>>A VERSE THAT SHOWS THE REALITY OF JESUS' SERVANTHOOD>

SLIDE 28

7. **REF:** MARK 10:45 "FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY"

SLIDE 29

8. >>THE POINT OF THIS VERSE IS THE EMPHASIS ON LOOKING TO JESUS AS THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW>

9. ===THE FOLLOWER IS TO BE LIKE HIS LORD, YET HE IS TO HUMBLE HIMSELF AND SERVE AND MINISTER TO MEN.
10. >>INTERESTING >CULTURES HAVE ALWAYS ENVIED THE PERSON WHO HAS MANY PEOPLE SERVING HIM.
11. ==BUT THE PEOPLE WHO ARE REALLY GREAT IN OUR LIVES ARE THE SERVANTS.
12. ==IF THE PRESIDENT TOOK A MONTH OFF, NO ONE WOULD REALLY MISS IT; BUT IF ALL THE TRASH COLLECTORS IN THE COUNTRY TOOK THE MONTH OFF, WE WOULD MISS IT! JESUS IS TRYING TO RE-ARRANGE OUR THINKING, OUR PRIORITIES.
13. ===LIVING AS A SERVANT REALLY IS THE BEST WAY TO LIVE. WE ARE NO LONGER CONCERNED FOR OUR OWN HONOR AND CREDIT;
14. @@WE DON'T WALK AROUND WITH HURT FEELINGS AND DISAPPOINTED EXPECTATIONS, BECAUSE ALL WE WANT TO DO IS TO SERVE.
15. @@WE CAN ALWAYS DO WHAT WE WANT TO DO, BECAUSE WE CAN ALWAYS SERVE SOMEHOW.
16. Q. DON'T WE THINK THAT JESUS KNEW THE BEST WAY TO LIVE?
17. ===JESUS ISN'T SAYING THAT IF YOU SERVE IN A LOWLY PLACE, YOU WILL BE GIVEN A GREAT PLACE. HE IS SAYING THAT IN GOD'S EYES, THE LOWLY PLACE IS THE GREAT PLACE.
18. >>WE NEED TO ASK OURSELVES>HOW MUCH OF A SERVANT ARE WE?
19. @@ WE SHOULD MEASURE OURSELVES AGAINST JESUS; BUT ANOTHER GOOD INDICATOR IS TO SEE HOW WE REACT WHEN WE ARE TREATED LIKE A SERVANT.
>>>THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF JESUS' DAY WERE MIXED UP ABOUT TRUE GREATNESS AS WELL>HOMEWORK>

REF: MATTHEW 23:1-12

@IF ANYONE WANTS TO BE GREAT THEY MUST LEARN
TO SERVE FIRST>

@MANY TIMES PEOPLE WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND
THIS SEEK TO BE LEADERS BEFORE THEY ARE FIRST
FOLLOWERS>

>SO LASTLY, TRUE GREATNESS HAS TO WITH>>

SLIDE 30

3. **A STEADFAST FAITHFULNESS VS.28-30 SLIDE 31-33**

READ

>JESUS CLOSED THIS LESSON ON SERVANTHOOD BY
REMINDING THEM OF THEIR FUTURE REWARD IN THE
KINGDOM.

SLIDE 34

>>FAITHFULNESS LEADS TO ETERNAL REWARDS AND
MANY TIMES EARTHLY BLESSINGS>

>>IN SPITE OF THEIR WEAKNESSES AND FAILURES,
THE DISCIPLES HAD STOOD BY JESUS DURING HIS
EARTHLY MINISTRY, AND GOD WOULD HONOR THEM
FOR THEIR FAITHFULNESS.

@@GUYS>>>FAITHFULNESS LEADS TO FUTURE
REWARDS!

>> OUR FAITHFUL SERVICE TODAY IS PREPARING US
FOR THE REWARDS WE SHALL RECEIVE.

==JESUS HAS SET THE EXAMPLE: FIRST THE CROSS,
THEN THE CROWN.

==SO HERE JESUS IS TELLING THE DISCIPLES THAT THEIR
FAITHFULNESS WOULD LEAD TO>>

A. **FUTURE RESPONSIBILITY & REWARD VS. 28-30**

READ SLIDE 35-37

1. **VS.28** "BUT YOU ARE THOSE WHO HAVE
CONTINUED WITH ME IN MY TRIALS."

2. **VS.29** "AND I BESTOW UPON YOU A KINGDOM, JUST
AS MY FATHER BESTOWED ONE UPON ME,"

3. **VS.30** "THAT YOU MAY EAT AND DRINK AT MY TABLE IN MY KINGDOM, AND SIT ON THRONES JUDGING THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL."

SLIDE 38

4. **==I BESTOW UPON YOU A KINGDOM:** THE DISCIPLES WILL RECEIVE A UNIQUE REWARD, BECAUSE THEY ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE **CONTINUED WITH JESUS IN HIS TRIALS.**
5. **==JESUS APPRECIATED AND VALUED THE SUPPORT HE RECEIVED FROM HIS DISCIPLES.**
6. **==THE APOSTLES WILL HAVE SPECIAL STATUS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD. THEY WILL SIT ON THRONES JUDGING THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL,** AND THEIR NAMES WILL BE ON THE TWELVE FOUNDATIONS OF THE WALL OF THE NEW JERUSALEM (**REVELATION 21:14**).
7. **==THE DISCIPLES HAD STOOD BY JESUS THROUGHOUT THE THREE YEARS OF MINISTRY AND THE HARDSHIPS IT OFTEN ENTAILED (9:58). THEY HAD BEEN WILLING TO BE SERVANTS, SHARING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND HEALING PEOPLE THROUGH JESUS' POWER (9:1-6).**
8. **==THE WORDS "I CONFER ON YOU A KINGDOM" REFER TO JESUS' PROMISE THAT BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH IN HIM, THEY WOULD ENJOY THE PROMISED MESSIANIC BANQUET WITH HIM, ABLE TO EAT AND DRINK AT [HIS] TABLE IN [HIS] KINGDOM.**
9. **==OF COURSE THIS WOULD HAPPEN, NOT IMMEDIATELY, BUT IN DUE TIME. THEY WOULD RECEIVE ALL THAT HE HAD PROMISED.**
10. **>IN ADDITION, THEY WOULD ALSO SIT ON THRONES, JUDGING THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL. THE "THRONES" AND "TRIBES" CAN BE UNDERSTOOD IN DIFFERENT WAYS.**

11. >>SO WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS THE LORD'S ENCOURAGEMENT TO SERVE FAITHFULLY.
12. ==BEING A SERVANT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE UNREWARDED. QUITE THE OPPOSITE; GOD'S GREATEST SERVANTS RECEIVE THE GREATEST REWARDS. BUT A GREAT SERVANT DOES NOT SERVE FOR THE SAKE OF REWARD, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S GLORY.

>>>IT WAS THROUGH THEIR PERSEVERANCE IN FOLLOWING JESUS THAT THEY WOULD BE GIVEN GREATNESS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD>
@@FAITHFULNESS IS A PREREQUISITE FOR GREATNESS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD>

@@@BE FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN!!!! IT'S ALWAYS TOO SOON TO QUIT>>>>

CONCLUSION:

SLIDE 39

>>TRUE GREATNESS: A SOUND PERSPECTIVE, A SERVANTS HEART, A STEADFAST FAITHFULNESS>
>>SO JESUS SHOWS US THAT GREATNESS IN GOD'S KINGDOM IS CONTRARY TO THE WORLD'S VALUES, FOR IT INVOLVES SERVING RATHER THAN BEING SERVED.

>>REMEMBER THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH GREATNESS>

@@IF BY GOD'S GRACE YOU ATTAIN ANY GREATNESS IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD, THANK HIM FOR IT. BUT NEVER FORGET THAT THOSE WHO ARE GREAT IN GOD'S EYES ARE THOSE WHO FORGET ABOUT THEMSELVES AND GIVE THEMSELVES AWAY TO OTHERS IN JESUS' NAME.

>@@YOU KNOW GUYS AS BELIEVERS, WE HAVE ALL EXPERIENCED GOD REACHING DOWN TO US IN GRACE. >SO IN THAT SENSE WE ARE ALL SPECIAL. >>>BUT WE MUST NEVER MOVE FROM SEEING THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE TO SAYING, "I MUST BE EXTRAORDINARY. AREN'T I SOMETHING!" MAY OUR SINFUL HEARTS NOT PERVERT GOD'S GRACE INTO A SOURCE OF PRIDE.

===THE TRUTH IS IMAGINED GREATNESS IS A DANGEROUS DELUSION.

QUOTE: IT'S BEEN SAID THAT "THE TRULY GREAT PERSON IS ONE WHO CONSORTS WITH THE LOWLY, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE AND WITH HIS LOVE. THE TRULY GREAT RARELY RESIDE IN PROMINENT PULPITS. THE TRULY GREAT ARE RARELY HONORED. THEY ARE HIDDEN. THEY ARE AMONG THE ANONYMOUS. THEY STAND WITH THE WEAK."

THE TRULY GREAT REJOICE IN THE ELEVATION OF OTHERS.

==THEY GLORY IN OTHERS' GROWTH, SUCCESS, AND HONOR.

Q. WILL YOU CHOOSE GREATNESS GOD'S WAY?