

To Be Truly Great

Luke 22:24-34

4/1/01

Intro

- The Marriage Conference this weekend
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Jesus and the disciples are seated around the table of the Last Supper and Jesus had just told them that a betrayer was among them. They were discussing who would possibly do the betraying.

The disciples then began to dispute among themselves as to which one was the greatest. Many great lessons can be learned from the Lord's correction to them.

Jesus teaches us how to be truly great.

Illus- today we have a similar situation with power seats, power ties, dress, etc. We like to appear better than those around us.

I. We Should Change our definition of Greatness.

Vs 25

A. Greatness is often a word of comparison.

- In the world, rulers lord it over others.
- In the world, greatness is determined by how many servants one has.
- They're even called "benefactors."

B. Jesus defines greatness through the eyes of the Lord.

Vs 26

- It should be different among you.

Illus – When the Watters went as missionaries from Scotland to India they observed that the men would cut their hair when they became a Christian. The ponytail was a symbol of their old life...

- The greatest is to take the position of youngest.
- The leader is the servant (for the true benefit of the one served).

Illus- In our church we teach "servant leadership."

C. Pride is not greatness.

Illus- Vs 27 – Who is greater the one seated at the table or the waiter? (Jesus had been waiting on them)

Illus – Jesus washed their feet.

II. What Happens When we Fail?

Vs 31

A. Satan can sift like wheat (beaten and tossed).

- To see what we're made of inside.

B. The greatest possible failure is in our faith.

Vs 32

- From that there is little remedy.

C. But in our faith, we can turn back.

- And strengthen our brothers
- Because others fail as well

III. The Lord Loves Us Back Home.

A. First there is arrogance.

B. Then comes failure.

C. Then restoring love.

Illus - See John 21:1-19.

Conclusion

This is one of the most difficult, yet most powerful lessons we can learn.

To have the character qualities of God is a mark of maturity in Christ.

Strengthen our faith and we can grow in Christ.