

God's Measure Of Our Humility

Matthew 18:1-4, Matthew 5:12, Matthew 5:19, Matthew 23:11, 2 Kings 22:19, 2 Kings 23:25, John 12:43, John 3:30

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This series on how God measures our life is very important. With each passing day, we're drawing closer and closer to the Judgment Seat of Christ.

It's there where the Lord will measure our lives, not to condemn us, or to shame us, but to reward us.

On that day, He'll search every part of our lives looking for anything good that He can find, and one of the things that He'll most certainly be looking to reward for is our humility.

Matthew 18:1-4, "At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

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I want to begin by pointing out there are two versions of greatness in God's kingdom. First, in God's eyes, everyone in His kingdom is considered great.

Not because of what we've done, but because of the finished work of Jesus at the cross.

We're great in His kingdom because He has made us perfect and clothed us with His robe of righteousness. Second, Jesus also said there will be those who will be called the greatest in His kingdom.

So, how can we become great in God's kingdom? How can we prove we're trustworthy enough to be rewarded with greater responsibilities and privileges in God's kingdom?

Here are two things Jesus said would make us greater in His Kingdom:

Matthew 5:12, *"Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

Matthew 5:19, *"Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."*

These things will make us great in God's Kingdom, but in Matthew 18:4, Jesus said, *"Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven,"* not just great, but the greatest.

Do you see the difference? Humbleness is a direct line to greatness in God's kingdom.

He who is humble in spirit, humble in childlike faith to trust God, and love God, is called the greatest in God's kingdom. Humbleness is important to God.

In one of the great paradoxes in the Bible, Jesus said in Matthew 23:11, *"The greatest among you will be your servant."*

Greatness in God's kingdom is not measured by earthly power and might, but by our faithful service to Jesus.

The world mocks the idea that being a lowly servant leads to eternal greatness. That's because the world measures greatness by fame, riches and power, but none of these things will ever bring greatness in God's kingdom.

Jesus said, *"If you truly desire to be the greatest in His kingdom you must choose the heart of a humble servant."* So, how do we become humble?

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The first step that leads to eternal greatness is to turn from the ways of the world and humbly submit ourselves to God and His ways.

We're to turn from pursuing the corrupt ways of the world and pursue godly and righteous living. That's the first step.

We must stop thinking like the world and focus on Jesus. We must stop chasing the American dream and focus on the eternal dream found only in Christ.

Humbleness that leads to greatness in God's kingdom is not determined by our position of earthly power and authority, but by serving others in the name of Jesus.

Greatness in heaven isn't determined by our greatness here on earth.

We can be the greatest and most powerful person on earth, and still have the lowest position in heaven. That's why only humbleness leads to greatness in God's kingdom.

The world scorns humility because the attitude of the world is to place yourself above others. That's not Biblical humbleness; that's pride and arrogance. Those who are proud and arrogant are self-centered and self-serving.

Pride and arrogance says, *"I know better than God,"* which is how most of the world thinks. Pride will destroy your walk with God. Pride doesn't lead to greatness in God's kingdom.

The Bible says pride is one of the things that God hates most, and right now, this nation is immersed in pride.

But God says, those who are His humble servants, and remain humble to Him in this sinful and prideful world are precious to Him and are among the greatest in His kingdom.

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The Bible defines humbleness as a submissive attitude that believes God, trusts God, and submits to obeying God and His will.

Those who are humble have a heart that's lasered-focused on serving God and His will.

In speaking of how humbleness leads to greatness, Jesus said, *"Humble yourself and you will be exalted."* There are a lot of ideas about what this means.

Some think it means that God exalts us on earth to reach a pinnacle of fame such as being a famous evangelist, a star Gospel singer, or the pastor of a mega church.

Perhaps God does do that sometimes, but that isn't how He usually operates. The one thing we need to understand is that God isn't preparing us for a great life here on earth.

He's preparing us for a life of greatness in His kingdom, and greatness in His kingdom is built upon the foundation of humbleness.

God's desire is to make us the best humble servant possible so He can reward us with greatness in His kingdom that surpasses anything and everything this world can offer.

But, and this is very important, He can only exalt us in His kingdom to the level of which we're humble.

No matter how great a person's abilities may be, their abilities are worthless for eternal greatness unless they're used in humble service for God's glory and honor.

Humbleness is the only avenue that leads to eternal greatness. No matter how great we are on earth; no matter how vast our fame, without humbleness before God we'll not be great in God's kingdom.

Again, the greatest rewards of heaven are reserved only for those who serve God with a humble heart.

For example, God has given every believer certain gifts or abilities to be used for His glory. How we use those gifts is totally up to us.

We're responsible for how we use our God given gifts. If we humbly use our God given gifts to honor Him, He'll honor us. But if we use our gifts for our own glory, God won't honor us.

God gave us gifts so that we could use them to serve Him and to serve the body of Christ. That's why God's desire is for us to be the best humble servant possible.

I'd love to sing, but that's not the talent God gave me. I'd love to write, but that's not what God called me to do. I'd love to be a great speaker, but on my best day, I'm just average.

But that's okay, because the gift God has given me is the grace to study and teach His Word and to encourage Christians to live a godly life.

That's God's gift for me to use and I desire with all of my heart to use that gift to serve and honor Him.

The point is that every person here has a special gift the Holy Spirit has given you to use for God's glory.

However, the problem is that most Christians want to be the brain or some part of the body that everybody sees. But the truth is, we can't all be the eyes, or the hands, or the brain.

Some of us have to be humble enough to accept that we're the lesser part of the body, which means someone has to be the little toe.

My point is, I want to be humble enough that if God calls me to be the little toe, then I want God to say, *"You were the best little toe out there, and because you were humble enough to accept that challenge, I'll reward you with great rewards."*

That's what's missing in the church. We're not using our God given gifts because everyone wants to be the brain. Everyone wants to be in charge and be seen.

Everybody wants to be great in the eyes of the world, but that's not what makes us great in in God's kingdom.

However, on the other side of the coin, many Christians think that because their talent is small, like the little toe, it's not worthy of being used.

God's not looking at how big our talent is, He's looking at how humble we are to use what He's given us for His glory.

Humbleness is the key. Remember, greatness in God's kingdom is reserved only for those who humble themselves to do what God has called them to do, no matter how small or insignificant the task is.

Our goal isn't to make our name great, but to be humble and make His name great!

Again, without humbleness before God we won't be great in God's kingdom. That's why humbleness is the key to eternal greatness.

A beautiful example of humbleness that leads to greatness is found in the story of King Josiah, who was possibly one of the greatest kings in Israel's history.

When Josiah became king, Judah was flooded with terrible idolatry. By every right he should've followed his father's footsteps of sin and idolatry, but Josiah humbled his heart and God used that humbleness to bring a great revival to Judah.

While repairing the temple, God's book of law was discovered. When Josiah heard God's Word, he tore his robe in great fear and had the priest inquire of God what was going to happen.

God said He was going to bring great judgment and calamity on Judah, but God also told Josiah that his eyes would never see this terrible calamity. Why?

2 Kings 22:19a, *"Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord..."*

Because of his humbleness, God preserved Josiah from the coming judgment and exalted him to be one of the greatest kings in Israel's history. Listen to how the Bible describes him:

2 Kings 23:25, *“Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.”*

That's about as high as you can go in receiving praise from God. God exalted Josiah because he chose to be humble. Let's look at this from another point of view.

King Uzziah was another great king of Judah who also did what was right in God's eyes. He was a humble king and a great hero to his generation.

God honored him by making him an awesome warrior whose fame spread across the known world, all the way to Egypt.

But sadly, Uzziah became full of pride and believed that his greatness was due to his own abilities. Instead of remaining humble, he exalted himself.

Remember, only a priest could burn incense before the Lord. However, Uzziah decided that since he was such a mighty king, he could burn the incense himself without the priest.

The priest tried to stop him, but he refused to listen. As a result, God humbled Uzziah with the dreaded disease of leprosy. King Uzziah was forced to live as a leper for the rest of his life.

When you measure your life for eternity, be humble, and remain humble before God, because humbleness before God is the only way to eternal greatness.

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An individual who is truly humble gives God all the glory and credit. In our society, the sad truth is, we desire the praise of men, more than the praise of God.

John 12:43, *“For they loved human praise more than praise from God.”*

That describes what the church looks like today. It’s amazing how Christians get upset when they’re not recognized for every little thing they do.

They’re more interested in their personal glory, and the praise of men, rather than being humble and glorifying God.

Don’t let that be you. Be humble and give God all the glory. If you get overlooked, or you don’t get a thank you, humble yourself and give God glory because He sees your humble work and He’ll reward you for it.

So, which would you rather have, praise from men that’s only going to last less than 3 seconds, or praise from God and the billions of saints of heaven that’ll last forever?

Then, in being humble, we must decrease, so that Christ may increase. There’s a whole sermon in this thought that I don’t have time for, but John the Baptist humbly proclaimed:

John 3:30, *“He must become greater; I must become less.”*

In God’s kingdom, the truly great person is the humble person who refuses to touch God’s glory, and humbles themselves to lift up God’s name, above all other names. That’s humbleness and that’s what God’s looking for.

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Conclusion

In closing, Jesus said it’s the humble who’ll be called the greatest in His kingdom. If we truly desire to be great in God’s kingdom, we must be humble.

Don't measure your greatness by your position, your reputation, or the praise you receive from others, but by your humbleness to honor God and obey His will.

It's God's desire that we serve Him as a humble people and live humble lives that honor Him.

So, in Jesus Name...

- Humble yourself by putting God and others first.
- Humble yourself by giving God all the glory and doing His will, no matter how small it is.
- Humble yourself so that you can be among the greatest in God's kingdom.

Humbleness is one of life's greatest decisions, and only we can make that decision.

Very soon, at the Judgment Seat, the Lord will measure our humbleness and the deeper our humility, the greater we'll be in His kingdom.

Remember, when we humble ourselves and honor the Lord, Jesus says He'll personally exalt us by acknowledging you before God, and all the angels in heaven.

In Jesus Name, I encourage you to repent, and humble yourself before God, because a humble heart is very precious in God's sight.