



Key References:

Matthew 20:25–28 (ESV)

²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

"True greatness is not found in a title, a salary or a position of influence. True greatness is found in servanthood. Willingly meeting the needs of others without looking for recognition from people. God's Word promises that He will honour your humility. When believers finally realize that their calling is to serve—not merely to seek their own interests—then the church will have an irresistible impact on the world." - Charles Stanley

Philippians 2:3–7 (NIV)

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

1 – Culture defined greatness

Growing up we all dreamed of being the best at something; being admired by others; to become truly significant. **What were those things that you one-day wanted to achieve or be well-regarded for?**

Today, who does our culture apply the label of “greatness” to and why? (*celebrities, politicians, sports players, rock-stars*)

In your workplace, friendship-group, church and family who are viewed as great? Does what makes someone great change in those different contexts?

2 – How Jesus defines greatness

Read Matthew 20:20-23. **What do you think about the mother’s request?**

Read on to verse 28. **What stands out to you? Why does Jesus use such pungent words such as servant and slave?**

Read Philippians 2:3-11. **God exalted Jesus to the highest place; what reasons are given for this in this passage?**

How do these two passages match up to the quote from Charles Stanley?

3 – Serving in humility as an act of worship

It’s clear that we are to serve others to be like Jesus. **Thinking about your career, family, neighborhood and church family how can you be a servant like Jesus?**

As we each grow in leadership how do we become better servants? Is the ability to serve others a spiritual gift?

How does God increase our ability to serve? What makes it hard to be obedient in this? How does sin in our life make it difficult to serve others?