

SERMON NOTES



CROSS EXAMINED: “Who is the greatest?”

March 9, 2025

Who is the G.O.A.T.?

Luke 22:24 Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. 25 Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. 26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. 27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. 28 You are those who have stood by me in my trials. 29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

1. Greatness comes through _____.

- *Matthew 18:1-4 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 He called a little child and had him stand among them. 3 And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*
- *Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*
 - ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*
 - ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,*

⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

2. Greatness comes through _____.

- *Matthew 20:20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. 21 "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." 22 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. 23 Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." 24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

3. Greatness comes in God's _____.

- *Luke 12:29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.*
- *Luke 23:42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."*
- *Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."*

By God's _____ be _____!

<https://godcenteredlife.org/devotional/luke-2224-30-leadership/>

1. *Establish and maintain by God's grace a secure relationship with God. It is hard to serve others if we ourselves are not served by Christ. We must be secure, and have the resources emotionally and spiritually, to be able to give our lives for others.*
2. *Pray for those around you—for their spiritual good, flourishing, health, and holy happiness.*
3. *Study the needs of those around you. Ask yourself what areas do they need to grow in, what do they need in order to flourish?*
4. *Take practical action to bless those around—in small ways and large ways.*
5. *Serve in the church.*
6. *Serve your family, friends, and neighbors as God gives opportunity.*

Being a servant does not mean being a doormat that everyone can walk over. Sometimes, for their own good, you need to take a firm line towards other people. Jesus was no push over. What it means is intentionally living your life for the good of other people. It might even mean dying for other people—as Jesus did on the cross.

MY PERSONAL NOTES

SERMON REFLECTIONS: Apply to My Life

The thought the Spirit is leading me to focus on is:

The change the Spirit is leading me to work on is:

The action the Spirit is prompting me to take is:

My prayers today are:

Someone I would like to bless with today's message: