

But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Matthew 23:11-12 (NKJV)

True Greatness

How would you define true greatness? What will you do to live a life that could truly be called great? Sometimes, I have wondered if desiring to live a life that could be called great is desire that is pleasing to you. **Do you think I want you to live a life that isn't great? Do you think I want you to live a life that would be called average or maybe even below average?** Well, that sounds ridiculous. **I'm glad that you think so.** I'm sure that defining greatness is the key. **It is.** The world defines greatness in a way that I am certain is at odds with your definition of greatness. **How so?** The world's definition of greatness is not rooted in humility. The world's definition of greatness is not centered in serving others. The world's definition of greatness revolves around rising above others. It is rooted and centered in a prideful desire to get ahead, and be better, and have more than others. If you are rich, the world would call you great. If you are powerful, the world would call you great. If you did something spectacular and especially noteworthy, the world would call you great. The world would never regard humbly serving others as being great. The world would never regard quietly loving others as expressed by humble acts of service as being great. Greatness according to the world is rising above others to be served by them. It is never following your example of humbly and selflessly loving others with no thought of return. True greatness never expects to be paid back. True greatness loves and gives sacrificially because it is following your example. True greatness does what is pleasing to you. True greatness stores up treasure in heaven with you. The efforts of true greatness bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. I want to live a life that is truly great. I want to follow your example. I want to think as you thought. I want to speak as you spoke. I want to act as you acted. I will humble myself as I serve you and others. **That will be true greatness.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, you have given me an example to follow. You have shown me what it means to humbly serve others. I will follow your example. I want to live a great life of humbly serving others. I want to bear lots of fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Amen

The Virtuous Life *The Greatest Among You*

The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

NIV Matthew 23:11-12

The Virtuous Life *The Greatest Among You*

The greatest among you must be a servant. But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

NLT Matthew 23:11-12

The Virtuous Life *The Greatest Among You*

The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

NRSV Matthew 23:11-12

The Virtuous Life *Is Greatest Among You*

He who is greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself [with haughtiness and empty pride] shall be humbled (brought low), and whoever humbles himself [whoever has a modest opinion of himself and behaves accordingly] shall be raised to honor.

AMP Matthew 23:11-12

The Virtuous Life *The Greatest Among You*

"But the greatest among you shall be your servant. "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

NASB Matthew 23:11-12

The Virtuous Life *The Greatest Among You*

The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

ESV Matthew 23:11-12

The Virtuous Life *He Who Is Greatest*

But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

NKJV Matthew 23:11-12

The Virtuous Life *Do You Want To Stand Out*

"Do you want to stand out? Then step down. Be a servant. If you puff yourself up, you'll get the wind knocked out of you. But if you're content to simply be yourself, your life will count for plenty.

MSG Matthew 23:11-12

The Virtuous Life *The Greater You Are*

"The more lowly your service to others, the greater you are. To be the greatest, be a servant. But those who think themselves great shall be disappointed and humbled; and those who humble themselves shall be exalted.

TLB Matthew 23:11-12

The Virtuous Life *The Greatest Among You*

Whoever is your servant is the greatest among you. Whoever makes himself great will be made humble. Whoever makes himself humble will be made great.

NCV Matthew 23:11-12

He Who Is Greatest

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Virtuous Life – Matthew 23:11-12

In Context: *Read Matthew 23*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Matthew 23:11-12 (NKJV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

But he who is greatest | among you | shall be | your servant. | And whoever | exalts himself | will be humbled, | and he who humbles himself | will be exalted. Matthew 23:11-12 (NKJV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, you have given me an example to follow. You have shown me what it means to humbly serve others. I will follow your example. I want to live a great life of humbly serving others. I want to bear lots of fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you fallen flat on your face by attempting to exalt yourself before others?

What will you do if you want to live a life that could be called great?

How does the world definition of greatness differ from the Lord's definition of greatness?

How has the Lord given you a clear example of how to humbly serve others?

How strong is your desire to follow the Lord's example of humbly serving others?

How is your life bringing glory to God because you are humbly serving others?

How is life bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God because you are humbly serving others?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Follow the Lord's example and live a great life of humbly serving others.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you will live a great life as you follow the Lord's example of humbly serving others.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are currently engaged in humbly serving others.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you exhibit true greatness by humbly serving others.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will exhibit true greatness by humbly serving others.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I exhibit true greatness by humbly serving others today?
