

The Story of Jesus
(Lesson 26)

Introduction:

1. In addition to identifying Jesus as His "*beloved Son*," the Father said, "*hear ye him*" (Matthew 17:5).
2. As we grow in our knowledge of the Lord (2 Peter 3:18) through careful Bible study (John 5:39), we must listen to His teachings and put them into practice.
3. In this lesson we are examining the Lord's instructions that relate to achieving true greatness in His kingdom.

Discussion:

I. MATTHEW 5:17-20

- A. (vs.17a) Jesus had the highest respect for God's Word -- His mission was not to destroy the writings of Moses or the prophets.
- B. (vs.17b-18) Jesus' mission was to fulfill God's law to the smallest detail.
- C. (vs.19) Jesus showed that "doing and teaching God's Word" is one of the keys to attaining true greatness in His kingdom.
- D. (vs.20) Jesus expects His followers to do better than the Pharisees (Matthew 23:2-4, 23).

II. MATTHEW 18:1-4

- A. (vs.1) The disciples wanted Jesus to settle an issue that was very important to them -- "*Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?*"
- B. (vs.2) Jesus first placed a young child in the middle of the disciples.
- C. (vs.3) Jesus then explained that the disciples needed to be converted and become as little children to enter the kingdom.
- D. (vs.4) He showed that humility is associated with greatness in His kingdom.

III. MATTHEW 20:20-28

- A. (vs.20-21) James and John, with their mother, made a request of Jesus -- they desired what they thought were the two most prominent positions in His kingdom.
- B. (vs.22-23) Jesus responded to their request.
- C. (vs.24) The other apostles became indignant toward James and John.
- D. (vs.25-28) Jesus taught the apostles how to achieve true greatness.
 1. (vs.25-26a) He explained that His followers must avoid the power structure found in government.
 2. (vs.26b-27) He wants His followers to be ministers and servants.
 3. (vs.28) Jesus set the proper example for His followers to imitate.

IV. MATTHEW 23:11-12

- A. (vs.11) Jesus emphasized the importance of service.
- B. (vs.12) Jesus also emphasized the importance of humility (James 4:6).

V. LUKE 22:14-27

- A. (vs.14-23) The occasion was the Passover when Jesus instituted His Supper as a memorial of His death.
- B. (vs.24) The apostles were divided over "*which of them should be accounted the greatest.*"
- C. (vs.25-26a) Jesus taught His followers again to avoid the power structure practiced by the Gentiles.
- D. (vs.26b-27) Service, such as Jesus practiced, is a key to true greatness in His kingdom.

VI. JOHN 13:1-17

- A. (vs.1-2) These verses relate to the same setting found in Luke 22:14-27.
- B. (vs.3-12) Jesus washed the apostles' feet, an act usually performed by a servant.
- C. (vs.13-17) Jesus taught the apostles to follow His example of humble service.

Conclusion:

1. According to Jesus, "doing and teaching God's Word," "humility," and "service" are the keys to achieving greatness in His kingdom.
2. Let us remember that God said, "*hear ye him.*"