

A Call to
Biblical
Greatness!

Introduction by Pastor Nikoley

These booklets proved to be successful in the lives of the people of Pomerado Road Baptist Church in Poway California. This sermon was preached from the pulpit of Pomerado Road Baptist Church by Pastor Nikoley, and written in outline form for the purpose of edification and of making it available to our people and friends for further study.

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All Scriptures are taken from the Authorized King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

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Dr. Hans A. Nikoley, Pastor

A Call to Biblical Greatness!

Please read Matthew 20:20-29.

Verses 26-27 *But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:*

To be truly great in God's eyes, one must *minister* according to his ability and according to the needs of others. Christ's *ministers* are not to "lord it over" others. Ministering to others shows humility, and indicates a desire to meet the needs of others and to help provide for their highest good.

Jesus does not condemn our desire to become great, but does not want us to become prideful or superior in attitude toward others. The word "minister" is the word for "servant" and is used in reference to the "*deacon*," but it often applies to ministers of the Gospel, as in 1 Corinthians 3:5 *Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man.?*

I quote the following statements not to promote a book, but to emphasize the need for biblical greatness in America.

"John W. Chalfant's important book *America – A Call To Greatness* is going to produce bountiful blessings upon the Christian ministries of this troubled land. He has captured the essence of militant Christianity as it relates to love of country and devotion to democratic principles which it is every citizen's opportunity and obligation to uphold. I believe that serious readers everywhere will find the imprint of the hand of God on this marvelous contribution to Christian and patriotic literature." D. James Kennedy, D.D., Ph.D. Senior Minister, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church.

"John Chalfant has faithfully strived to demonstrate the incontrovertible fact that God is sovereign over all nations and all

peoples. Without a renewed acknowledgment of accountability to our Creator, America will perish." Howard Phillips, Chairman. The Conservative Caucus, Inc.

"In a mere 228 pages John Chalfant summarizes the cause-and-effect relationship between spiritual and political struggles of our times. He offers foolproof, attainable, action-based solutions for the restoration of America's vanishing freedoms. America – A Call To Greatness is powerful, hard-hitting, and holds no punches. Fully documented, it is filled with Bible-based political realities, hope and inspiration. As Chalfant contends, 'The most exhaustive book ever written on politics is the Bible.' America – A Call To Greatness should be MUST reading for every American, including politicians, clergymen, businessmen, high school and college students, homeschoolers and citizens from every rank and religious persuasion. This book contains the keys to the restoration of our country."

Donald S. McAlvany, Editor. The McAlvany Intelligence Advisor

Look at the world around you; it has its own definition of greatness. We live in a world where righteousness is mocked and wickedness is made to look normal.

Our purpose for this message is not necessarily to teach us to be great, but to examine the characteristics of true Bible greatness in the ministry. In other words, what causes someone to be great and what are the characteristics of a great person?

By looking at some of the great men and women in the Bible we can evaluate where we fit. Jesus gave the disciples three ways to define true greatness:

GREATNESS IN THE WORLD IS NOT GREATNESS WITH GOD

Verse 25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

Most Christians judge greatness by standards of the world.

- The world says fame and fortune define greatness.

Here is what happens: we see and hear the philosophy of the world and it is not long before we adopt the standards of the world rather than the standards in the Word of God.

- The world says influence and power define greatness.

Greatness in the Bible was never determined by how much money someone had, or how much influence or power they claimed to have. Greatness was always given to the one who was a servant. Greatness is serving, and God is calling each of us to serve, not to be great. Three questions we ought to ask:

- Why do you want to be great?
- How great do you want to become?
- Why the intrigue with greatness?

The world attributes greatness to movie stars, sports figures, those with talent in music, and sometimes to those in politics. Great people in the world have four things most of us want: power, fame, money and influence. We need to recognize that greatness is not determined by how much money we can get our hands on, or how much power we wield, but greatness is serving.

D. L. Moody was a servant; he shined the shoes of those who attended his conferences. Would you and I be willing to be that kind of a servant?

Serving can be done for selfish reasons: recognition, one's name on a plaque, fifteen minutes of fame, etc.

SERVING IS A CHOICE

Verse 26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

This kind of greatness will not be forced upon you, but is a choice. "*Let him be your minister,*" or servant. No one will force you to serve and there is really only one person who can keep you

from being a servant.

Here is an important lesson: servanthood is not a stepping stone to greatness, because servanthood is greatness. In other words, you are great because you serve – would you be a servant?

I believe we have lost our burden to serve because we have a clouded vision of greatness. Serving is greatness! Greatness cannot be planned, organized or scheduled, because serving is the greatness.

JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE OF GREATNESS

Verses 27-28 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

- A servant is not to consider himself above others.
- He is not to conduct himself with a superior or prideful spirit.
- He is to help the weak by caring rather than criticizing.
- He should realize that true greatness is to serve others.
- If need be, he should be ready to give his life to promote the salvation of the lost.

Greatness is really no more than taking the place of a servant. A National Talk Show Host refers to many of his callers as a “Great American.” How would it be if someone said of you and me, “You are a great servant?”

Luke 22:27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Want to be great? Be a servant.

