

THE GREATEST AMONG YOU

Luke 22:24 And they began to argue among themselves as to who would be the greatest in the coming Kingdom.

- When Jesus talked about his new coming Kingdom, the disciples started ranking themselves and appointing themselves for positions in it. This is very reflective of what many Christians are doing today. *Prov. 25:6 Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men:*
- Many feel they are better than others and measure themselves by things they have achieved in this life or accolades that others have given to them. *Phil. 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*
- The seeking of titles, elevation, and superiority over others has caused our church to focus on the creature more than the Creator. These distractions have led to the suppression of truth. *1 Cor. 4:1 So look at Apollos and me as mere servants of Christ who have been put in charge of explaining God's secrets.*

Luke 22:25 Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men order their people around, and yet they are called 'friends of the people.'

Luke 22:26 But among you, those who are the greatest should take the lowest

rank, and the leader should be like a servant.

Luke 22:27 Normally the master sits at the table and is served by his servants. But not here! For I am your servant.

- God is a God of order and He chooses those that He desires to lead. But we should never deem ourselves better than others because of what God has done for us. *Phil. 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*



- In the world, people get ordered around. However, the Bible is clear that in the Kingdom, those that are chosen should be focused on serving others. *2 Tim. 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,*

- Even though Jesus possessed all power and was greatest among His followers, He served them. He did not desire to be lifted up in the flesh and He did not chase earthly titles and accolades. *Phil. 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

Luke 22:28 You have remained true to me in my time of trial.

Luke 22:29 And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right

Luke 22:30 to eat and drink at my table in that Kingdom. And you will sit on

thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

- Many of the leaders that desire great statuses in the Earth have denied Jesus before men in order to be exalted. We must remain true to Him through the tribulation of the end times to sit with Him in His coming Kingdom. *Matt. 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*



- Seeking prominence in this life is pointless because this world is not our true home and in order to gain notoriety requires us to please the world. *John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*
- Those of us that deny ourselves in this life will sit high in the new coming Kingdom. *Matt. 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*

Summary

So many of our church leaders are focused on what they can achieve in this life. They are preoccupied with titles and ruling positions in order to selfishly lord over congregations and appear great in the eyes of men. This is the opposite of what Jesus taught his disciples. If we are to be true followers of Christ, then we must be willing to deny ourselves and be looked upon as servants and not supreme beings. Sure, we submit ourselves to leadership but this does not give leadership the right to disrespect the authority that we all possess from God. We are all children of God. Just because a person is a leader does not mean that they dishonor or misuse their

leadership to demean others. Jesus taught that being a true leader means becoming a servant of those that you lead. The desire to be great and lifted up in this life did not come from God but rather it came from the devil. When Satan offered Jesus Christ, earthly fame and prestige in exchange for worship, Christ rejected his proposition and this should be our same response to the devil. If we focus on the return of Christ and the Kingdom that is to come, we will not be overly concerned with being lifted up in our current state.

Matt. 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,
Matt. 23:2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:
Matt. 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.
Matt. 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.
Matt. 23:5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,
Matt. 23:6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,
Matt. 23:7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.
Matt. 23:8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.
Matt. 23:9 And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.
Matt. 23:10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.
Matt. 23:11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.
Matt. 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.