

THE GREATEST AMONG YOU 4



Mark 10:43 “But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant;

- In the kingdom of God, the way to please God is to serve others. Serving others is the only true way to serve an omnipresent God. *Gal. 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*
- We serve God by serving others. What we do for others, we do unto God and He is glorified by our compassion for those we help. *Matt. 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*
- When we are a part of a church fellowship, our assistance and service unto the church keeps the work of God going. When we do our part, we are helping many others receive the same message of hope that changed us. *Col. 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*
- When we make promises to God that if He blesses us with an ability then we will serve in ministry, we cannot change our minds and still expect God to bless us when we fail to fulfill our commitment. We must remain faithful to the promises that we made to God and the people that we serve. *Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*
- Our attitude should always be to do whatever we are able to do to help ministry go forward. After all, we would not be in the place we are in now, had someone not taken their time and done their work in the ministry properly. *2Tim. 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient*

Mark 10:44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.

- Seeking to be seen and recognized for what we do in the church is a bad spirit to have. We should carry out our duties in order for the message of God to go forth not to appear vainglorious to others. *Phil. 2:3 Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself.*
- Jesus Christ set the example of what our attitudes should be towards serving. He came to Earth as a servant of those that needed His help. He never asked to be compensated, He never did it grudgingly and He never had to be “encouraged” to do it. *Mark 6:34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.*

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

- Jesus saw the needs of others as important to His Father so He accomplished His work with true compassion. *1 John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*
- The labors of Jesus and the apostles changed lives forever. We have an opportunity to impact lives as well so we should approach it with a Christ-like mindset of ministering. We should desire to help God's people by doing what we have been gifted to do. Our gifts and abilities aren't given just for us, but to help others to grow God's kingdom. *1 Pet. 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:*

Summary

Growing up in the old school era of church taught me many things. I learned that in order to truly please God, I had to use my gifts, talents, and abilities in the church. I learned at a young age that when I did a great job in the workplace, I would get promoted and receive more pay. However, when I did a good job in the church, God would bless me even greater! I learned to separate what I did for gain and what I did for God. The church changed my life and helped me to make better decisions as a man and father. I learned to respect elders, do work diligently for God's Kingdom, and not to be seen of men. I learned that in order for my home to be even more blessed, I should give money as well as my time and talents to the church. I learned that the more I gave to God's people, the more blessed I would be. These principles continue to govern my life now and I follow them to this day.

Many times we forget all that the church has helped us learn and how the messages from our pastor helps us to mature. We would not be here if it had not been for the declaration of hope that rescued us out of darkness. Each and every week we are receiving the Word of truth and it is life-changing. Whether it's applied immediately or brought to our remembrance when we are challenged, the Word is in us and we owe it to God to support the ministry that is guiding us and giving us information that is transformative. We cannot sit on our talents and abilities in the church or demand pay for everything we do for the ministry. Many times, when a pastor appears financially secure, people think he should be responsible for financing everything in the ministry. But the truth is, a

pastor's responsibility is to feed the flock in Word and the church would care for him financially. In most cases pastors are blessed financially BECAUSE of the sacrifice they have made early on to make sure God's people were fed. When we look at these things and begin to feel that the pastor or ministry "owes" us something, then it's time to move on to another ministry that we desire to "serve" in. When the Word that is received from a ministry is not enough to motivate you to sow your time and talent, then you are not where you should be. When we are where we desire to be, then we will have no problem being excited about making the ministry the best it can be. This is being a true servant unto God. The only way we can truly give to God is to give to others. Supporting the ministry that is feeding us is the best way to show compassion for others. We should desire to reciprocate the same diligent effort that someone did to get the truth to us.

Matt. 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matt. 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Matt. 25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Matt. 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

Matt. 25:38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Matt. 25:39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

Matt. 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matt. 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matt. 25:42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

Matt. 25:43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Matt. 25:44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

Matt. 25:45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

Matt. 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.