

G.O.A.T.

Small Group Questions: Part 1: Redefining Greatness

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Read

Genesis 12:2; Psalms 71:21; Mark 10:35-45; Genesis 1:27

Reflect

In the world of Sports there is often a debate over who the “greatest of all time” would be in a specific sport. In our culture today, greatness is often defined by different measures. Some would say, that it’s a person’s wealth that makes them great, others would say it’s their talent or their ability to _____. But what does the Bible say about greatness. What does it mean to be truly “great” in God’s Kingdom? Who is someone you consider to be “great”? Why?

Pastor Josh Surratt shares that we have been made in the image of a great God and that he has planted greatness within our hearts, but often we need a perspective shift on what it means to be great.

Greatness Redefined

After Jesus foretells of his coming death, his disciples James and John ask a question that seems out of place. They ask Jesus to do whatever they ask, Jesus replies “what do you want me to do for you”? Their request was to sit at his right and to his left, places that would signify great honor and glory- places of greatness.

What do you think of their request?

We are hardwired for greatness

1. We are hardwired for greatness. We have been created in the image of a great God. Discuss Genesis 1:27 together. What do you think about this truth?
2. There is a high price to pay for greatness.

Jesus responds to his disciples by telling them “you don’t know what you are asking”. He asks if they are able to drink from the cup he drinks or be baptized with the baptism that he is baptized with (Mark 10:38)? They respond with a hearty “we can”.

They wanted to experience the greatness of God but didn’t understand the suffering that would be involved. So often today, in the context that we live in, we believe that if we love God, then we will be exempt from suffering. Yet, we are given many examples in the Bible of those who love God being exposed to various trials, to suffering. What do you think of the truth that greatness is often born out of suffering?

3. A misguided drive for greatness will damage relationships.

We are told in Mark 10:41 that the other disciples were “indignant” or as Pastor Josh put it “ticked off”. He further shares 5 different ways that we can fall into a misguided view of greatness and in doing so, we can damage the relationships around us.

Discuss these five examples. How have you seen this play out in your life? Which one do you think you tend to gravitate towards when you are not lining up with truth?

4. True greatness will often elevate the people around you.

Jesus took the time in that moment to teach the disciples a very powerful truth. The key to greatness in the Kingdom of God looks very different than greatness in the world. He shared that to be true greatness would be seen in the way that they sacrificially served those around them. No One that he would exemplify to the fullest as he poured out his life on the cross, giving up his rightful place of power and honor, to die a sinner's death on the cross. He displayed pure greatness as he "gave up his life" as a ransom for many".

With the correct definition of greatness in view, discuss how this looks in your spheres of life. How can you add value to and serve those around you as you seek to walk in the greatness God has for you?

Respond

What is God teaching you personally about biblical greatness? How can you support one another as you seek to walk in the truths you are learning?