



## Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

*“To Be Great...”*

### **Points from Sunday’s Message**

1. Sometimes our worst traits show up at the worst times.
2. Jesus doesn’t rebuke our need for standing, status, and esteem; He reframes it.
3. Kingdom greatness is measured by being, not achieving.
4. When status is our priority, exclusion becomes our instinct.
5. Greatness is not determined by our output or our team, but by our closeness and connection to Christ.

### **Key Verse:**

*“For he who is least among you all will be great.”*

— Luke 9:48

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### **1. Why do we naturally compare ourselves to others?**

**Questions:** In the passage, the disciples argue about who is the greatest. Pastor Miles connects this to our modern struggle with status and comparison. Where do you most feel the pressure to measure your worth (work, family, church, social media, etc.)? How have you personally experienced “status anxiety”?

**Further Reading:** Galatians 1:10 – Seeking approval from God vs. people, James 3:14–16 – Envy and selfish ambition

#### **2. What does Jesus redefine as “greatness”?**

**Questions:** Jesus responds to the disciples by placing a child before them and saying the least is the greatest. What stands out to you about Jesus using a child as the example? How is this definition of greatness different from what our culture values?

**Further Reading:** Matthew 18:1–4 – Parallel account, Philippians 2:3–8 – Humility of Christ

### 3. How does knowing your identity change how you pursue greatness?

**Questions:** A key idea from the message: “God does not value your worth by your output.” Do you tend to define yourself more by what you *do* or by who you are in Christ? How would your life change if you truly believed your worth comes from being made in God’s image?

**Further Reading:** Genesis 1:26–27 – Made in God’s image, Psalm 8:4–5 – Crowned with glory and honor, Ephesians 2:8–10 – Saved by grace, not works

### 4. Where might “spiritual comparison” show up in your life?

**Questions:** The message highlights that even in ministry, people compare influence, impact, and success. Have you ever compared your faith, service, or spiritual maturity with someone else? What does that reveal about your heart?

**Practical Application:** This week, intentionally celebrate someone else’s success or spiritual growth without comparing yourself.

**Further Reading:** 2 Corinthians 10:12 – The danger of comparing ourselves, John 3:27–30 – “He must increase, I must decrease”

### 5. How do we “gatekeep” the kingdom like John did?

**Questions:** John tried to stop someone from serving Jesus because they weren’t part of their group. Where do you see this mindset today (churches, denominations, friend groups, etc.)? Why do you think insecurity often leads to exclusion?

**Further Reading:** Mark 9:38–41 – Parallel account, Romans 14:1–4 – Accepting other believers

### 6. What would it look like to pursue greatness through humility this week?

**Question:** Jesus reframes greatness as humility, service, and closeness to Him —not achievement. What is one practical way you can choose “low” this week (serve someone, go unnoticed, give up recognition)? How can you intentionally prioritize closeness with Christ over productivity?

**Practical Application Challenge:** Identify one hidden act of service you can do this week that no one else will notice.

**Further Reading:** Mark 10:43–45 – Servant leadership, Colossians 3:23–24 – Working for the Lord, not people

*Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.*