

Understanding and Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 15: The Chiefest of All

In this lesson you will learn:

How does someone become great in the Kingdom of God?

One day, James and John came to Jesus with an unusual request.

Mark 10:35-37

- ³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.
- ³⁶ And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?
- ³⁷ They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.



Jesus patiently answered their question.

Mark 10:38-40

- ³⁸ But Jesus said unto them,
Ye know not what ye ask:
can ye drink of the cup that I drink
of? and be baptized with the
baptism that I am baptized with?
- ³⁹ And they said unto him, We can.
And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall
indeed drink of the cup that I drink
of; and with the baptism that I am
baptized withal shall ye be baptized:
- ⁴⁰ But to sit on my right hand and on
my left hand is not mine to give;
but *it shall be given to them* for
whom it is prepared.

The other ten did not like that James and John wanted to be exalted over them.

Mark 10:41

And when the ten heard *it*, they began to be much displeased with James and John.



Jesus used this opportunity to teach his disciples the most revolutionary teaching on greatness ever heard.

Mark 10:42-45

- ⁴² But Jesus called them *to him*, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.
- ⁴³ But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:
- ⁴⁴ And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.
- ⁴⁵ For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Sadly, not all ministers
are ministers.

Mark 10:42-45

- ⁴² But Jesus called them *to him*, and saith unto them,
Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over
the Gentiles exercise lordship over them;
and their great ones exercise authority upon them.
- ⁴³ But so shall it not be among you:
but whosoever will be great among you,
shall be your minister:
- ⁴⁴ And whosoever of you will be the chiefest,
shall be servant of all.
- ⁴⁵ For even the Son of man came not to be ministered
unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom
for many.

True greatness is not measured by how many people serve YOU.

True greatness is measure by how many people YOU serve.

The ninth chapter of Luke tells of a very important event in the lives of the twelve disciples. They received power and authority they could never have dreamed of having before.

Luke 9:1-2

- ¹ Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.
- ² And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.





Before the twelve met Jesus, their days were filled with the routine and often mundane activities of life. Take Peter as an example. Peter was a fisherman. Each day he woke up, prepared his nets, and went fishing until it was time to quit. Then he went to bed. The next day, he woke up, prepared his nets, and went fishing until it was time to quit. Then he went to bed. The next day, he woke up, prepared his nets...

But now their hearts were on fire.
They had power! They had authority!
And yet, what was their biggest worry?

Luke 9:46

Then there arose a reasoning
among them,
which of them should be greatest.





Luke 9:47-48

⁴⁷ And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him,





Luke 9:47-48

⁴⁷ And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him,

I always imagine the mother of that child saying, “I knew it!”





Luke 9:47-48

⁴⁷ And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him,

⁴⁸ And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me:

for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.



Christ did not chastise his disciples.
“Why are you worried about things
like that for? Get your ego under
control!”

He understood their question. What
makes a man’s life truly significant?
Jesus taught them the true meaning
of greatness.

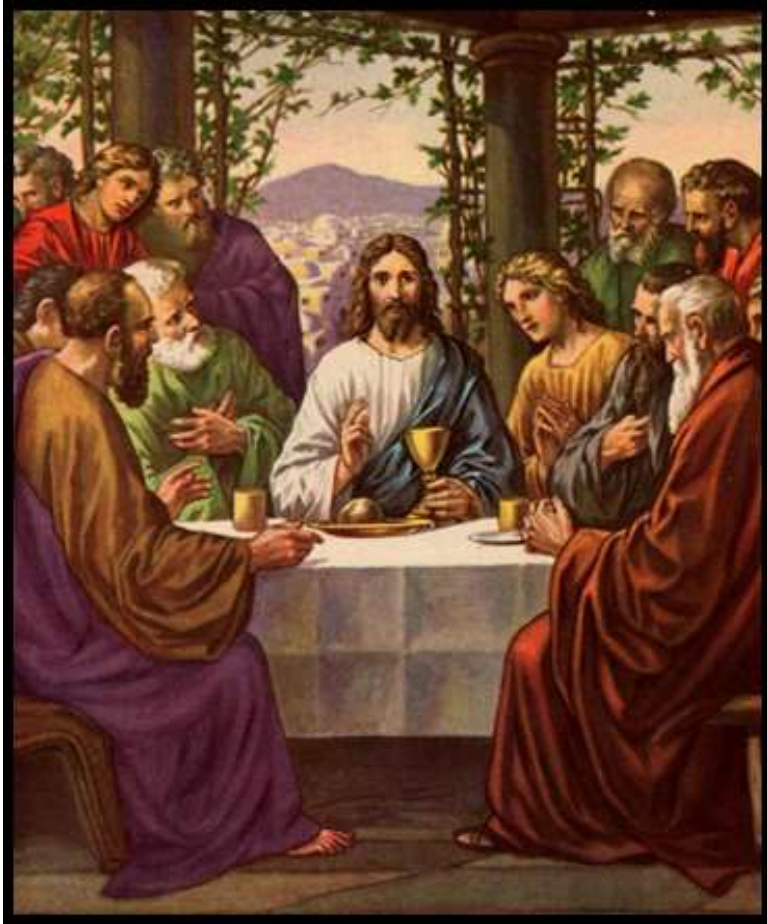
Luke 9:47-48

⁴⁷ And Jesus, perceiving the
thought of their heart, took a
child, and set him by him,

⁴⁸ And said unto them,
Whosoever shall receive this
child in my name receiveth me:
and whosoever shall receive me
receiveth him that sent me:

**for he that is least among you
all, the same shall be great.**





As is often true with the Lord's disciples (both then and now!) one hearing was not enough.

But we can only shake our heads that such a thing would come up at such a time.



Luke 22:14-16

- ¹⁴ And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.
- ¹⁵ And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:
- ¹⁶ For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.





Luke 22:17-20

- ¹⁷ And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide *it* among yourselves:
- ¹⁸ For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.
- ¹⁹ And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.
- ²⁰ Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup *is* the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

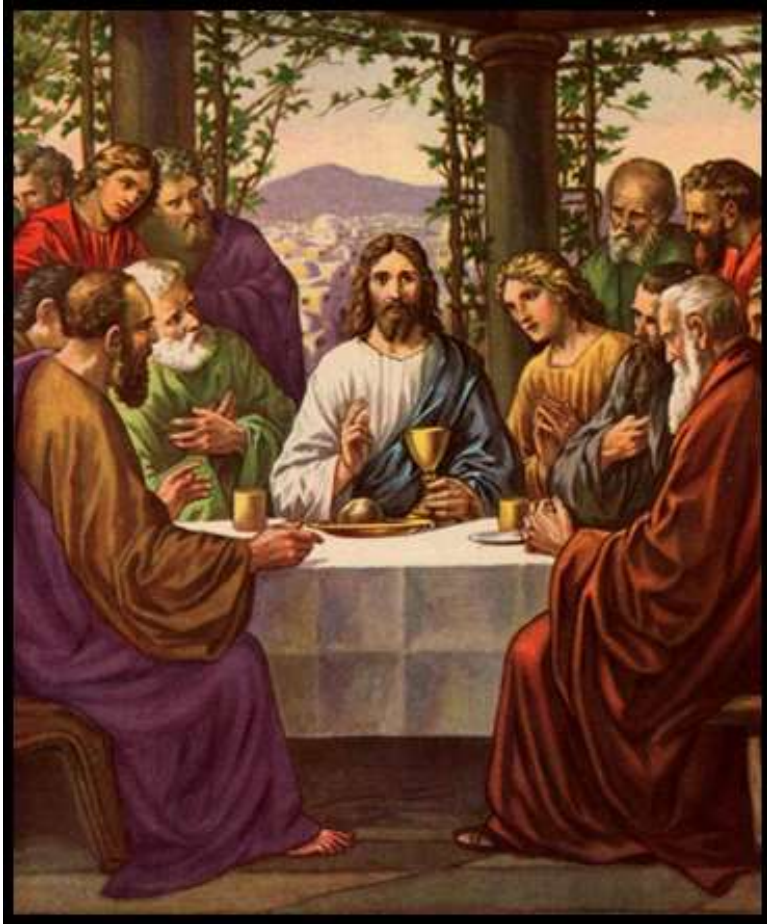


There was yet another terrible announcement.

Luke 22:21-22

- ²¹ But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me *is* with me on the table.
- ²² And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!





You would think that after hearing this, the men would leave the table to find a quiet place to pray. “Oh God, don’t let me be the one who betrays the Master!”

But something else was on their minds.
Something else was bothering them:

Luke 22:23-24

²³ And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

²⁴ And there was also a strife among them, **which of them should be accounted the greatest.**



I could easily imagine Jesus turning over the table just like he did at the temple!



But now, in his last hours before his arrest, Jesus once again taught them about true greatness.

Luke 22:25-27

- ²⁵ And he said unto them,
The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.
- ²⁶ But ye *shall* not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.
- 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.



Is it wrong to want to lead a great life?
No, it is not. If it was a sin, Jesus would have corrected his apostles.

But what makes a life great? True greatness is found in a life of service to God and his people. As Jesus said, the Good Shepherd will give his life for his sheep.

John 10:10-11

¹⁰ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

¹¹ I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.



It is good to want to have a great life.
But greatness is defined by who you
are. Who you are is defined by who you
serve.

Live a life that God can honor.
Serve the Lord.

John 12:26

If any man serve me,
let him follow me;
and where I am,
there shall also my servant be:
if any man serve me,
him will *my* Father honour.



Lord Jesus,

I bring before you every student who has put their heart into learning the material in this class. Only you know the challenges they must overcome in order to fulfill your will for their lives. Open their eyes to know the Holy Spirit who will lead and guide them, and bring them into a greater understanding of your Word through the gifts he brings. Don't let them be entangled by the strange doctrines that bring confusion into the church. Help them to be great in your kingdom through a life of service to you and your people. Amen.

Your Final Assignment:

Write an essay on true Christian service, and the kind of minister you want to be for the Lord and his people. Your essay should be at least one page long.



WTWH.org