

Day 1

Do you want to be great? Is it a sin to want to be great? It's certainly a natural desire, but does that make it wrong? How do you define greatness? How does this view compare to how society defines greatness? **READ Matthew 18:1-4.**

The disciples asked Jesus what it took to be great – he didn't admonish them for desiring greatness, instead Jesus explained the path to becoming truly great. He said they must become child-like in their faith. Like the disciples, we are to follow Him with a child-like trust and complete reliance on the goodness and faithfulness of our Father.

Hank was an extremely gifted and promising runner. At one time, he had dreams of greatness. Fast forward a few years, some bad choices and a broken spirit, Hank found himself without much hope and giving up on his dreams. Hank wanted to be great, but he realized he couldn't do it alone. Without knowing why or how, he simply started praying and listening. Hank, being child-like in his faith, came to God out of a desire for greatness. Since then God has used this desire to transform his life. Now he is not only running again and following his dreams, he has devoted his life to purity and pursuing greatness as he follows Christ. Jesus shows us the way of true greatness and in it we find a way to live that is more fulfilling than we could ever hope for. **Pray** your heart's desire would be to seek true greatness, that you allow the creator of greatness to be the definer of it and with child-like faith, you would follow.

Day 2

From birth a child learns from watching, listening, and imitating those around him. Children believe what they are told. For instance, how do children know a pig is a pig or the cat says "meow"? Someone has defined the pig and cat for them and they have accepted that definition as truth. What would happen if in first grade we opened our books and discovered what we learned was wrong? The horse doesn't say "oink"! Look at how you defined greatness from "Day 1"; how society defines being great, and what Jesus says it takes for us to become great. Do they all agree?

How do we know which is true? **Read John 14:6.** Coming to Jesus as a child is trusting what He teaches us, what He thinks, what He feels, how He lives IS the truth and it defines reality. **Read Luke 5:27-28.** Jesus tells Levi the tax collector "Follow me," and Levi left and followed Him. Levi was willing to give up everything to learn from Jesus. By following Jesus, Levi entered into a relationship where he got to know him intimately. Levi learned about his rabbi's desires, passions, and hurts by studying Jesus daily. Do we do that? Do we leave everything to follow Jesus even if for only a few minutes a day? Do we take the lessons we learn from His word and actively demonstrate it in our daily lives? Do we trust that what He says really is the way to true greatness? Do our actions reflect that? Do our thoughts? **Ask God** to reveal the places in your heart that you hold back from Him, where you need to follow Him, learn from Him, and trust Him.



Day 3

Read Luke 6:46-49. Can you relate with the person who knows the right thing to do, but struggles putting that good advice into practice? If you are on your journey of becoming more like the Rabbi, you may have had times when you scratched your head and wondered why you couldn't just "get it together". You may have decided to buckle down and try harder, only to find out your efforts had come up short. **Let's ask God** to show us when our efforts are in our own power, or if they are energized by God's power living in us.

What if we can't seem to take the next step in our journey? We often mistakenly believe change will start when God changes how we "feel" about an area of our lives. Once He changes how we feel we believe it will change how we "think", and then we'll start "doing" the things needed to change. If we're honest, that doesn't work and often the feelings don't change. Why not try a new approach and take different steps of action even though the feelings don't go along with it? Does a runner wait until they feel like they can run a marathon before they run at all? Of course not, they start by running short distances and build to longer, more grueling ones. Due to this runner's diligent training and hard work toward the goal of running a marathon, his thinking went from, "A marathon is out of the question," to "I can run a marathon!" Often, changing our behaviors can change our thinking, which eventually changes our feelings. Let's take the next step God is calling us to even if our feelings haven't quite caught up yet!

Day 4

Typically we think of those being served as the great ones. We may even measure greatness by how many "servants" they have. However, Jesus made it clear that if we are to follow Him and become like Him, we must serve... What happened to us becoming great? **Read John 13:14 and Matt 20:25-26.** We may be tempted to think of serving as "seasonal" (we've already served and will again at some point, but for some reason we just aren't at a place right now where we can serve). Following in the steps of Jesus, serving is to be an ongoing part of our lives – a way of life. How and perhaps whom we are serving may change throughout our lives, but no matter where we are on our journey we have been called to serve in some way. Think about the Jacob's Well service opportunities from this weekend's 'Serve Rally. Where can you serve? Where will you serve? **Pray and thank God** for not only the opportunity to serve for Him, but that He blesses our serving with greatness. Pray that He will show you a place to serve on a regular basis. If you are serving, pray that He will use you to bless those whom you serve.

Day 5

Read John 21:15-17. Jesus is calling "feed and care for My sheep". Jesus is calling Peter to equip others so they in turn can equip others. Look around you. Who do you influence? Are you a parent? Have you ever taught anyone something? Consider Jesus' example. He served to show His disciples, His children, by doing. Then He said "do". Leadership in its most simple form is to serve and show others how to do the same. The greatest thing you can do is invest in someone else's greatness. Though Jesus was the better teacher, He equipped His disciples and sent them out to teach and equip others. Who has God placed in your path? How can you serve them? How can you invest in them becoming great? **Ask God** today how to lead and care for His sheep in your life.