



The Secret Of Greatness WEEK 4 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of the series entitled, Difference Maker, we will discover the secret of greatness.

DISCUSSION

Greatness from God's perspective is defined by how you help, serve, and add value to people. In **Matthew 20:26**, Jesus says to all the disciples: ***"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant."*** Jesus is the consummate servant leader. Just prior to the crucifixion, and at the time of the Feast of the Passover, Jesus had gathered the disciples for the Last Supper. Although it was common for the lowest of the servants to come and wash the feet of each person, Jesus took initiative and washed His disciples' feet.

- What does it mean to be a servant leader?
- What was the significance of Jesus washing the disciples feet?

Five Keys to the Secret of Greatness:

1. The motive of love.

John 13:1: *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.*

Jesus knew he was about to be abandoned and betrayed, yet he was gripped with God's *agape* unconditional love. His love was undeserved, unending, unconditional, and unselfish. Love motivated Jesus to serve. Paul says in **Philippians 2:4: *Let each of you look out not only for your own interests, but also for the interests of others.*** We are called to serve others with the pure motive of love.

- How does God's unconditional love affect the way you love others?

2. The model of security.

In John 13:4, Jesus: *rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.* Jesus got up from the table on this momentous night. He changed into his servant clothes, and he grabbed a towel. Jesus was inwardly secure. He had nothing to prove. The insecure are into the titles; the secure are into towels. Only somebody who's been set free can set other people free. Our security comes from our relationship with Jesus and realizing who we are in Him.

- Why is it important that our security only comes from our relationship with Christ?

- How can we shift our perspective and mindset when faced with moments of insecurity?
3. The mandate of initiative.
John 13:5: After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Jesus took initiative and met practical needs. God commands us to do something about practical needs. The Secret of Greatness is to find the need and meet it. Find a hurt and heal it. Find a problem and solve it. Difference makers don't wait around—they take action.
- How does the principle of finding a need and meeting it affect our spiritual growth and relationship with God?

4. The moment of risk.
John 13:6-8: Then He came to Simon Peter and Peter said to Him, "Lord, are you washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!"... Jesus came to a risky, even awkward moment as He was washing the feet of His disciples. Jesus could've felt rejected by Peter's response, but He persevered, moved past the awkwardness and continued. There comes a moment of risk every time we step out and meet the needs of people. They may or may not accept how we serve them.

Here, we see how Peter had an issue of pride. Peter had to learn to receive, or, in his future ministry, he would end up in pride. When someone serves you, it humbles you. Receiving when people serve you positions you with the right attitude when you serve others. If you receive it, you can give it away without taking any credit.

- Have you ever been rejected when trying to serve others? Have you ever rejected anyone that wanted to serve you?
 - How does humility play a crucial role in both receiving service from others and in serving others effectively?
5. The miracle of example.
John 13:12-15: So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them... "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." Jesus led by example. When we begin to love and to serve others, people begin to catch the spirit of serving and giving. When we get outside ourselves, lead by example, and serve others, it releases blessing.
- Share a time when you witnessed someone's actions motivating others to serve and give. How can this ripple effect of service create an eternal impact?

LIFE CHALLENGE

This week, discover opportunities to serve. Find a need and meet it. Whether it's by yourself or together with your small group, follow the example of Jesus and be His hands and feet.

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER