

Living the Jesus Paradoxes: 'Least is Greatest'

²⁵Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:25-28)

The “Me First” Problem . . .

- “_Truth_ is what I _want_ it to be.”
- “I’m entitled to _special_ _privileges_.”
- “Anything I do must _ultimately_ _benefit_ me.”
- “My team is here to make me _look_ _good_.”
- “I rarely _give_ _money_ away.”
- “People who _disagree_ with me are my _enemies_.”
- “I’ll _neglect_ others to _protect_ myself.”
- “_Controlling_ people is how I get my _way_.”

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Three Kinds of Power . . .

- _Positional_ power
- _Possessional_ power
- _Personal_ power

²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. (Luke 22:27)

WHEN JESUS REDUCES US TO GREATNESS . . .

- We renounce the myth that the world owes us something.

²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave. (Matthew 20:26,27)

- We resolve to put more into life than we hope to take out of it.

“ . . . just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

Because we children of Adam want to be great,
He became small.
Because we will not stoop,
He humbled himself.
Because we want to rule,
He came to serve.
(unknown)