

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX

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January 17, 2016

Introduction: Growing up, what did you want to be great at? How old were you when you gave up on that and realized you had to get a real job? You and I both know you can be great at something and not be a great person.

The Bible teaches that being great is about other people. It is using the greatness and leveraging it for the benefit of others.

Mark 10:35-45 35 *Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him, "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask.*

36 *"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.*

37 *They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."*

38 *"You don't know what you are asking." Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"*

39 *"We can." They answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with,*

40 *but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.*

41 *When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. 42 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them and their high officials exercise authority over them.*

43 *Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

We all know this is true because when we think someone is great it's not just that they are great at something, but when they use that great talent to benefit someone else.

We all have the opportunity to be great because it's a choice we make. It's always a decision.

The leaders would hire lawyers to follow Jesus around and take notes and also try and trick him into saying things that would get him arrested.

Luke 10:25-37

25 *On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus, “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”* or in other words, what could I do that would be so great God would notice. A good trial lawyer never asks a question he that doesn’t already know the answer.

26 *“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”* Jesus turns it back on him – you know the law.

27 *He answered, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”* The lawyer says back to Jesus what Jesus says all the time, it is a combinations of a passage from Deuteronomy and Leviticus, the Love the Lord your God part is what every Jewish person knew to be the right answer but Jesus added the Leviticus part about loving your neighbor.

28 *“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”* Jesus says if you can do this you and God will be in great shape.

29 *But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”* This may have been the trap, if Jesus so broadly defines neighbor they could accuse him of equating God with some really bad person.

30 *In reply, Jesus said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.*

34 *He went to him and bandaged his wounds pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘ and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’*

36 *“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell in the hands of robbers?”*

37 *The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”* Everyone knew the answer. *Jesus told him, “Go, and do likewise.”* Jesus was saying take the things you’re great at and use them to be great in someone’s life.

The Big Challenge: We all have opportunities to be great. Don’t we justify why we should not be great in someone else’s life, “If I do it for them, I’ll have to do it for everyone.”

The question that GREAT people ask, most of the time in your mind, “What can I do to help?” not how can I solve all their problems, just simply what can I do to help.

God defines greatness by those who use the things they are great at for someone else.