

Biblical Study Insights

A Weekly Compilation by Rodney "Roc" Foreman

"Spiritual Greatness"

*"...But he that is **GREATEST** among you shall be your servant, and whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased, and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted...."*

Matthew 23:9-12

I am sure that you would agree that the measure of "greatness" is a measurement that has heightened relevance to "positional power", material gain and socio-economic status. The humanistic position of greatness has a very large following, in that; many envision greatness to be something that places you in a self-promotional place of exalted prominence.

The notion of this kind of "Greatness" communicates positions of pride, ownership and even self-righteousness to so many. It can even create a kind of "dominance" over others that is NOT consistent with The Image of God. If we notice in the **Matthew 23** passage (*our above text*), Jesus dealt with three structural & authoritative positions of both the Scribe and the Pharisee: Rabbi, Father and Master! The Scribes and Pharisees were seen as religious leaders, as well as religious "authorities." However, they were also groups who greatly oppressed the people with their positional and self-exalted dominance.

The way these groups attained much of their status was by being seen as the LARGEST, heard as the LOUDEST and feared as the GREATEST. They demanded that others called them by their positional superlatives. Therefore, Jesus was really teaching his disciples to NOT accept this example, but to follow HIS living example of True Greatness.

"...One is your Teacher [Rabbi]...One is your Father...One is your Master even Christ...." **Matthew 23:9-10**

GREATNESS, in this passage, is defined (from the original language) as *large, strong, eminent, virtuous, highly esteemed and splendid*. It comes from two Greek and Aramaic words: "**Meizon**" & "**Megas**" (where the English word "**Mega**" is derived).

So then, for a person to become Large, Strong, Eminent, Virtuous, Highly Esteemed and Splendid, the quest for material gain is not the answer. Positional prominence is not the way to achieve true greatness, nor is any kind of self-promotion. Jesus said that we MUST become **Servants!** What a striking contrast! While the "common" notion is to attain greatness by trying to exalt ourselves, the Righteous notion is to bring ourselves to the lowest point – to do what the so called "large" people were/are unwilling to do... Perhaps, because it is to "little" for them.

In this Righteous way, we therein become LARGE to God, and HIGHLY ESTEEMED: He exalts us! Time does not permit me to teach on the Purpose of being exalted, but I'll say this: Divine Exaltation is NOT merely a reward for service, but an opportunity for God to be seen in and through what we do for HIM - to attain GLORY for Himself! Being Divinely Exalted is an act of **TRUST** placed upon the life of the Servant, that is, to accomplish for God what other people seek to accomplish proudly and selfishly. Therefore, True Greatness is when we serve God (through serving other people) to the point of becoming "as nothing", although in the eyes of God, we achieve for Him the Glory and Honor that could NEVER be done through selfish means! My friends, THIS IS GREATNESS!

"...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and HE will lift you up...."

James 4:10

Grace & Peace,
Roc