

Week of January 29

Book: No More Excuses

Chapter 5: No More Weak Leadership

Theme: Greatness

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Overview:

I don't know about you, but I've always been fascinated by greatness. Our culture loves the concept of greatness. Turn on a sports talk show or the history channel and I can promise you that you'll run into the notion of what it means to be great.

Jesus addresses the context of greatness in [Matthew 20:20-28](#). He equates greatness with service, which is a humble approach. Service isn't natural for me. My parents and sister are much more natural to serving others. I'm a little more aloof, and birth order in being the youngest also contributes to that.

That's a good thing for me because that's where the Gospel has transformed me and affected my life the most. I've always wanted to be great in some capacity or the other. This has made me grow in service 'cause that's the mark that Christ set for greatness in His Kingdom.

Jesus was always redirecting or redefining greatness according to the Kingdom He established. The standards of human wisdom and reasoning are incompatible with the standard of His Kingdom. In fact, human wisdom and reasoning are why Jesus came to die on the cross for us because of our sins.

Scripture Memory: [John 3:30](#).

- Start meditating on this passage throughout the week and then study it on Sunday.

Daily Devotions (Scripture & Meditation):

- **Monday:** [Matthew 20:20-28](#)
 - *What has God called you to do that is bigger than you?*
- **Tuesday:** [Luke 9:46-48](#)
 - *What does it mean to "be least among you"?*
- **Wednesday:** [Matthew 28:16-20](#)
 - Tony says, "the level of your participation affects the experience of the promise." *How much have you participated in God's call in sharing the Gospel within your spheres of influence? How much have you submitted in trusting for His Will to be done in your life?*
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- **Thursday:** [John 8:31-59](#)
 - The Lamb of God is the true Greatest of All Time (GOAT).
 - *Does your life reflect that Jesus is greater than you?*
- **Friday:** John 17
 - In the story of Eric Liddell's Olympic run, an American Olympic team masseuse handed him a paper with [1 Samuel 2:30](#), "those who honor me I will honor." In that moment, Liddell goes on to win the 400m race. In this instance, there are two people which God used for proclaiming His message. We may just be the messenger some days, but also be in the arena in full public

view. Either was obedient to God's call in their lives and each made impacts that we still read about today.

- *What are ways that you can be a better messenger either within or outside the arena?*
- **Saturday:** [John 14:11-14](#)
 - *What does Jesus mean we will do greater works than Him? How are we able to perform such greater works?*
- **Sunday (Accountability Day):** [John 3:30](#)
 - Ask a brother about the scripture memory for the week to keep each other accountable.

Weekly Challenge:

A concept that was discussed in our growing up, based on this mentality of service, is that you should want to out-serve one another. An example my dad used to always say to men, and I'm paraphrasing, is: 'Men, if you want to be the leader in your home and be great in the sight of God, out-serve your wife.' Now, I'm not married, but the essence of that phrase can be applied to multiple facets of life.

Look for ways to glorify God and to lift others up as well.

Song of the Week:

[He's Not Just A Man - Fred Hammond](#)

