

Huddle

The Greatest - A New Commandment
February 9, 2013

Describe a time in life when you wanted to be “the greatest” at something. What did you learn through this?

The word “greatest” stirs something inside of us. It is something we care about. It is something we aspire to be. Jesus had something to say about the greatest.

Matthew 22:34-40 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." NIV

You can only know the greatest love when you know and experience the love of God. But make no mistake, God's love demands a response.

How do you typically respond to God's love each day?

How you honestly answer that question reveals your beliefs about what it means to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind and reveals your beliefs about how you should receive His love personally and express it to others.

What change would you like to make in your response?

Luke 22:24-27 Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. NKJV

Note the sad irony; while Jesus faced the reality of being betrayed and killed, His disciples argued about which of them would be the greatest. This wasn't their first time to blow it regarding “the greatest”.

Matthew 18:1-4 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. NKJV

Love is forgiving, fervent, hospitable, serving, and unselfish. Romans 12:9-13

Love is without reservation, hesitation, or qualification.

Jesus centers in on love as the greatest force in the universe. God's love, the greatest love, brought Jesus to us.

1 John 4:7-10 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. NLT

What does knowing God's love stir inside of you?

God's love is unseparable, unending, unselfish, unmerited, unconditional, supernatural, sacrificing, and satisfying!

Let's Get Real!

Jesus disciples repeatedly blew it trying to obtain their position as “the greatest” in God's kingdom

Describe a time when you too have blown it. What did God use to teach you the lesson of humility?

Only thinking about ourselves and what position we should have usually results in arguments and disunity. Pride results in the selfishness and disunity of God's people which is a travesty to the Christian faith. For this reason, Jesus gave the example of humility as necessary to enter the kingdom.

True humility means knowing yourself, accepting yourself, and being yourself - your best self - to the glory of God. It means avoiding two extremes: thinking less of yourself than you ought to, or thinking more of yourself than you ought to (Romans 12:3). The truly humble person does not deny the gifts God has given him, but uses them to the glory of God.

Which extreme do you sway toward most often and what is God revealing to you regarding humility?

1 John 2:8-10 Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you...He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. NKJV

Jesus gave us

A new object - love focused on community.

A new measure - Jesus standard of love for us.

A new power - Holy Spirit empowers us to love.

What do you need to love others in humility?

Walk it Out

How will you overcome your greatest challenge to demonstrating “The Greatest” love?