

How to be Great in the Kingdom, Part 1

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 20:20-28.

B. We live in a proud and egotistical generation. No society can survive pride because society is based on relationships.

C. The Bible speaks against pride very clearly. (Proverbs 21:4, 16:5, Romans 1:30, 1 Timothy 3:6, 1 John 2:16, 1 Timothy 6:3-4)

D. God resists the proud. (James 4, Isaiah 23:9, Psalm 31:23, Exodus 18:11, Psalm 18:27, Daniel 4:37)

C. Humility is exalted as a virtue. (Micah 6:8, Psalm 138:6, 10:17, Proverbs 15:33, Colossians 3:12, 1 Peter 5:5, Ephesians 4:1-2)

D. We need to learn the lesson of humility. Humility is before honor. (Matthew 18,)

E. We are called to suffer. (2 Timothy 2:5)

F. Self love is neither historic or biblical Christianity.

G. Humility is the path to greatness.

II. How not to be great.

A. Political power play.

1. Some disciples tried to play on the affections of Jesus because he was a relative.

2. This is wrong political power play.

B. Audacious ambition.

1. The highest places of glory are for those who suffered the most for Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:17)

2. Too many have excessive confidence. (Matthew 26)

3. The time came when they would drink of the cup of suffering by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C. Dominant dictatorship. Our way is not to lord it over people. (1 Peter 5)

D. Charismatic control (the power of personality)

III. How to be great: humility.

Application Questions:

1. Why is humility such a difficult path to greatness?

2. Which path to greatness are you most tempted by?

3. What steps can we take to live a more humble life before both God and man? Explain.
