



SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Central Question: What does it mean to be great—personally, as a leader, or as a church?

Worldly Greatness:

- Alexander the Great gained fame through conquest, power, and cultural influence.
- Modern models of greatness focus on power, wealth, and status.
- These models define greatness as domination and achievement.

Jesus' Teaching (Mark 9:33–35; 10:42–45):

- Greatness is not about lording power over others.
- “Whoever wants to be first must be last and servant of all.”
- Even Jesus came “not to be served but to serve and give his life.”
- True greatness = humble service.

Serving as Spiritual Discipline:

- Like prayer or fasting, service forms Christlike character.
- Greatness is measured by how many people you *hold up*, not how many look up to you.

Servant Leadership (Robert Greenleaf):

- Leadership is born from service, not ambition.

- Inspired by *Journey to the East* (Hesse): Leo’s quiet service sustained the group.
- Greenleaf: “The servant leader is servant first.”

Three Characteristics of Servant Leaders:

1. Serve before leading:
 - Desire to lead can stem from pride.
 - Leadership grows out of a willingness to meet others’ needs.
 - Jesus influenced billions by serving, not seeking status.
2. Value people over organizational goals:
 - Shepherds care for sheep, not just structures (1 Peter 5).
 - Focus on people’s highest needs—even if that means correction or challenge.
3. Authority earned through service, not position:
 - Titles (pastor, president, prime minister) don’t make someone a great leader.
 - Authority is temporary, given by God, and must benefit others.
 - “Authority is a performance of service” (Wright & Bird).

Practical Applications:

- Examine motives: Is your aim to lead or to serve?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal others’ needs.
- Ask, “How can I serve you better?”
- Refuse allegiance to leaders who define greatness by domination rather than Christlike service.

Conclusion:

- Jesus is the model of servant leadership—He gave His life to serve and lead us to life.
- Anyone can be a great leader because anyone can choose to serve.

Connect Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Are you more comfortable serving others or being served by others?
(There is no right or wrong answer - we all have different dispositions in this area!)
2. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Mark 9:33–35; 10:42–45. How do the examples of Alexander the Great, modern political slogans, and Jesus' teaching reveal different definitions of greatness? Where do you see these competing visions of greatness shaping your own values or ambitions?
2. Robert Greenleaf says a servant leader is "servant first." How can we discern whether our desire to lead comes from pride or a genuine call to serve? Can you share an experience where leadership grew out of serving rather than seeking influence?
3. How does viewing service as a spiritual discipline (rather than just a duty) change your motivation or practice of serving? What spiritual growth have you experienced—or hope to experience—through consistent service?
4. Jesus led by giving His life for others. What does His example teach us about influence, sacrifice, and the cost of leadership? Where is Jesus inviting you to take a step toward servant leadership this week?

Practice:

Ask each person to intentionally listen for one need in someone's life (family member, friend, coworker, neighbour).

Their task: quietly meet that need without expecting thanks or recognition.