

Serving Those Who Serve

“For the least among you, this is the one who is great.”

Luke 9:48

Being the greatest is something that many people in our society strive for. People endeavor to be the richest, smartest, fastest, or strongest. Muhammad Ali in the height of his fame claimed, “I am the greatest.”

But this sort of thinking goes directly against what Jesus called his disciples to be. He actually calls us to be the least. Jesus was trying to show his followers that the true key to being greatest is actually by serving others and allowing ourselves to place others above ourselves.

Sometimes we may be tricked into thinking that what we have to offer others isn't really worth giving. We may think, “I can't lead a prayer, I can't lead the praise and worship or I can't preach.”

But consider this, Jesus even needed a support cast in his ministry.

Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, and also women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means (Luke 8:1-3).

Without the women who travelled with him, Jesus very well may not have had the means to financially support all of the travelling and preaching that he did. Paul posed a similar question a few years later to the Christians in Rome. “*How shall they preach unless they are sent?*” (Romans 10:15).

Paul encouraged the Christians in Rome to “*receive [Phoebe] in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you may help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of my self as well*” (Romans 16:2).

I may not be called to preach great lessons or to teach multitudes. But I can certainly help lift up and encourage those who do. It might come in the form of meal, providing a place of rest, or a simple card or phone call of appreciation.

So today let us commit to be the greatest by becoming the least.

- Serena DeGarmo