

THE CALL TO GREATNESS

Hear the call that God extends to everyone He creates: the call to be like Him, the call to be great. Respond by finding a way to serve in a perhaps invisible, perhaps unrewarded—but great—way.

KEY POINTS

Having lost everything, can greatness be all that's left?

- ❖ Daniel lost his country, his home, his family, his king, his privileged childhood and everything familiar to him. Even his God seemed to have lost the battle, lost His temple and all the precious vessels and treasures that were in it. (See Daniel 1:1-8.)
- ❖ Despite the situation, Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself, and he took action to do whatever he could to make it be so.
Greatness always gets tested, usually unexpectedly.
- ❖ Greatness will always be opposed. If you fear the obstacle, the obstacle's influence on you will grow. If you face it, your influence on the obstacle will grow.
- ❖ Daniel goes from just abstaining to proclaiming. He had faith that this choice would make him, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego better.
- ❖ Greatness is not about some humanistic or New Age view; greatness does not exist outside of God. As stated in Dan. 1:17, God gave these four young men knowledge and skill. (See Dan. 1:11-14; 17-20.)
The road to greatness begins...
- ❖ ...one step beyond obligation. Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God included statements like "Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two" (Matthew 5:41). Greatness is shown in what you choose to do, without force or obligation.
- ❖ The pathway of willing service is the path to greatness. "Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant" (Matt. 20:26).
- ❖ In light of what Jesus said, the question "Am I on the path to greatness?" is best answered by another question, "How have I served today?"
R W D
- ❖ They stand for three words that are a biblical formula for success: Righteousness, Wisdom, and Diligence. Doing what you know is right, doing it in the right way, and doing that day in and day out predictably, relentlessly, because it's actually what you *want* to do. No life can be great without all three aspects of RWD.
- ❖ **Greatness requires something of you: putting God first, giving it your best, and depending on Him, not you.**
- ❖ The prophet said "Make me a cake first," then the oil never stopped flowing (1 Kings 17:10-15).
- ❖ Gideon: putting in the work of planting, harvesting, threshing, and then listening to God (Judges 6).
- ❖ Peter: stepping out of the boat because Jesus called him (Matt. 14:29).

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Daniel 1:1-8, 10-14, 17-20

- ❖ John wrote to his friends and fellow-Christians, "I wish above all that you would prosper, even as your soul prospers" (3 John 2).
- ❖ Greatness in other parts of your life depends on greatness of soul. And our souls need God—to be great, to thrive, and to give life to our existence.
What is the greatest thing you can do?
- ❖ **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.** Abraham believed and God accounted it to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3).
- ❖ **Act on your faith by obeying God.** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10).
- ❖ **Always take it one more step.** Keep going. Work with God and God will work with you. Strength and speed are not required for greatness. "He who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13).
Can you hear the call to greatness?
- ❖ If you can hear the call, go ahead and respond. Don't wait for others to tell you what to do. "Whatever He says to you, do it" (John 2:5).
- ❖ If you need to repent, exercise greatness over sin and repent. If you need to be baptized, exercise greatness over your past and come and bury it in Jesus' name. If you need to receive the spirit of greatness, the Holy Spirit, come.
- ❖ Whatever is going on right now in your life, the call to greatness is going out to you. Can you hear it? Can you feel it in your heart? It is from God. But it's up to you to respond.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Have you, like Daniel, ever been in a situation where it felt as if you had lost everything? How did you react (by fleeing/fighting)? Did you still believe you had greatness within yourself?
2. For those who believe you have a call of greatness in your life, what is it? What are some the steps you can or have taken in order to walk this pathway?
3. Righteousness. Wisdom. Diligence. Define each attribute in your own words. Discuss how having one or more of these qualities can help in achieving success.

Prayer Time

Lord, help me to hear the call of greatness You have for my life. Whatever the call might be—whether great or least—help me to put my whole heart in Your service.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

👉 (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Start-up: What was the highest position you have ever held? What was the lowest? What things were good or bad about each position?

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline