



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Finding True Greatness

This guide offers a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Message Theme

Greatness Follows: Anyone Can Be Great

Prayer Focus

Lord, Thank You not only for the many blessings You've given me but also for the grace that renews me each day. Help me keep an eternal perspective without focusing on earthly desires but on the life You called me to live. I want to serve others humbly and in love, reflecting Your goodness. I give You all the glory for the opportunities to bless those around me. May my life honor You and advance Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, amen.

Key Truths

The desire to be great is a quality Jesus admired, yet true greatness may differ from what we typically imagine. Jesus teaches that to be great, we must set aside our own desires and learn to serve others. In the Kingdom of God, greatness isn't measured by how many people serve *us* but by how many *we* serve. As Jesus says in Matthew 6, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Two qualities define greatness in God's Kingdom: humility and service. Those who belong to the Kingdom of God will do inconvenient things at inconvenient times. Our calling is to be like the Good Samaritan in Luke 10, showing God's grace and mercy to those around us. While our deeds do not save us, the Lord will reward us for them. Jesus teaches that whatever we do for people in need, we do as if for Him. It's easy to become distracted by earthly desires, but when we refocus on what Jesus did for us, we're guided back to the right path.

When we reach Heaven, our life's work will be tested by fire on an altar. What survives the flame will be our work for God, while what's consumed will represent what we did for ourselves. It's important to remember and be encouraged that we will be rewarded for our works, but our deeds won't bring salvation.

Practical Application

To develop an eternal perspective, we must look beyond the concerns of today. The life that Jesus offers is truly the good life. God didn't merely save you from something; He saved you *for* something—a better life.

Regardless of your occupation, the greatest calling you can embrace is serving others. Shift your focus from the temporal to the eternal.

Reflect on the good things you're doing and consider what you're sacrificing for the sake of others.

Reference Verses

- Hebrews 13:17, 11:24-26
- Matthew 20:20-28, 18:1-4, 25:34-40, 13:45-46
- 2 Corinthians 10:8
- Luke 10:25-37
- Mark 9:33-37
- Colossians 1:24, 3:17
- Ephesians 2:10
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-4, 9:16-17, 3:10-15
- Philippians 1:5

Declarations

- I will strive to do more work for the Kingdom than for myself.
- Earthly desires may fade, but God remains steadfast and faithful.
- No matter where I am or what I do, I can serve and bless those around me.

What's Next?

In this week's message, Pastor Duane challenges us to humble ourselves and prioritize serving others in love. We are called to step out of convenience, sacrifice for the Kingdom, and live with an eternal perspective. Let these practical steps help guide and inspire you to pursue greatness in God's Kingdom

Redefine Greatness: Jesus taught that true greatness in God's kingdom doesn't come from power or status but from humility and service. To be great, one must serve others and do so with a humble heart, as seen in Matthew 20:26, where Jesus says, "Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant." Reflect on areas where you can serve others, whether within your community, church, or personal life, and approach it with a genuine attitude of humility.

Live a Life of Love and Compassion: The foundation of greatness lies in loving God and loving others. This is central to the commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). Be willing to help those in need, as demonstrated by the Good Samaritan. Your actions should reflect Christ's love, even when inconvenient, as "kingdom people do inconvenient things at inconvenient times." Show compassion to those around you, especially when it requires sacrifice.

Focus on Eternal Rewards: Biblical greatness involves looking beyond earthly success and setting your sights on eternal rewards. Like Moses, who "looked to his reward" (Hebrews 11:26), keep your focus on the lasting impact of your faith and service. Jesus promises that what we do for others, we do for Him, and He will reward

us accordingly (Matthew 25:40). Make decisions in life with an eternal perspective, prioritizing God's kingdom over temporary, worldly gains.

The actions we take in service to others, even in the most inconvenient moments, reflect our devotion to Christ and store up eternal rewards. We're not called to simply attend church, but to actively live out our faith through good works that glorify God.

As we go from here, let's ask ourselves:

"How are we serving others?"

"How are we showing God's love?"

Let these questions guide us as we strive for true greatness—greatness that honors God and blesses His people.

If you're in need of prayer or have questions, email prayer@walkingbyfaith, text via WhatsApp, or call 1-800-988-5120. We would love to connect with you.

Scripture References

Finding True Greatness

Hebrews 13:17 NKJV Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Matthew 20:20-28 NKJV Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, [a]and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, [b]and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father." And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Matthew 18:1-4 NKJV 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.

2 Corinthians 10:8 NKJV For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction...

Luke 10:25-27 NKJV And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "

Luke 10:28-37 NKJV And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among [a]thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, [b]when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Revelation 22:12 NKJV "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."

Matthew 25:34-40 NKJV Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Colossians 1:24 NKJV I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church...

Ephesians 2:10 AMPC For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NKJV Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Hebrews 11:24-26 NKJV By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

Mark 4:19 NKJV ...and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

1 Corinthians 9:16-17 NKJV For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

Matthew 13:45-46 NKJV "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Philippians 1:5 ESV ...because of your partnership in the gospel ...

1 Corinthians 3:10-14 NKJV According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

1 Corinthians 3:14-15 NKJV If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.