

There was this most interesting story of this great Harvard University teacher. She was a most interesting person and had achieved her goal of teaching at Harvard. She really wasn't all that happy at Harvard because she became tired of seeing so many of her medical students constantly competing with each other to prove who was the greatest. Because of all these things she left her prestigious job in disgust and went to Nepal to serve the poor. She now lives a very simple life helping needy people wherever possible.

Until they learned otherwise, that was the major concern of the disciples - "who is the greatest."

Our world values **greatness** in the person who is of fortune. The world encourages us to achieve Greatness by putting "Self" at the highest.

Jesus turns that principal upside down. He simply says "**The greatest among you is the one who serves others.**"

Who are those others?

Jesus shocks his disciple. He embraces a child. Children at the time of Jesus were treated as non-persons. With the widespread abuse, abortion and abandonment of children throughout the world, too often they are still treated as non - persons. Jesus lets his disciples know that to reject a child is to reject Him. To receive a child is to receive Him. Elsewhere in Scripture He invites them not only to serve them but to learn from them. Learn the lesson of humility, simplicity, truthfulness and a total dependence on a loving God. However, it isn't just children that were treated as non - persons in Jesus' day:

Women were treated as property, widows had no legal rights, Gentiles were nothing but pagans, and the poor were thought to be in disfavor with God.

Jesus upset the apple cart. He identified with the weak, the vulnerable and the underdog, anyone in need. What you do to them, the very least of them, you do to me. So, help them, serve them, love them - yes, go ahead and even show kindness to your enemy, is the command of Jesus.

Not infrequently one of the greatest regrets of people at the end of their life is not often the dumb things they have done, but rather missed opportunities for doing good. You and I can use the gift of time that remains for us to do our best work yet - that is, each day to have a one-on-one conversation with God about the needs of others. There is no greater work than prayer.