

The Secret to Greatness

SERIES: Living Life Upside Down - October 6, 2019

“For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” Matthew 23:12 (NIV)

Every day we face the simple test of greatness (check one):

- Exalt yourself
- Humble yourself

I. How humility handles our **AMBITION**.

“Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:4 (NIV)

- Exalt yourself: Be DEMANDING
- Humble yourself: Be DEPENDING

Why everyone should be ambitious:

1. We're **CREATED** by God.
2. We're given **RESPONSIBILITY** over this world.
3. We're made to reflect God's **IMAGE** in the world.

II. How humility handles our **NEED** for notice.

“The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” Matthew 23:11-12 (NIV)

“Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide... they love the place of honor at banquets... and to have men call them ‘Rabbi.’” Matthew 23:5-7 (NIV)

- Exalt yourself: You NEED other's notice
- Humble yourself: You notice other's NEED

III. How humility handles our tendency to COMPARE.

“But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ ...For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 14:10-11 (NIV)

*“Be humble and consider others more important than yourselves.”
Philippians 2:3b (CEV)*

- Exalt yourself: Get the UPPER HAND
- Humble yourself: Take the LOWEST SEAT

IV. How humility handles our RELATIONSHIP with God.

“Two men went to the Temple to pray...” Luke 18:10 (NIV)

*“When the two men went home, it was the tax collector and not the Pharisee who was pleasing to God. If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honored.”
Luke 18:14 (CEV)*

- Exalt yourself: Do it YOURSELF
- Humble yourself: Trust GOD

“God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.” 1 Peter 5:5-6 (NASB)

“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Matthew 11:29 (NIV)