

## Mark 10:32–45 — Two Paths To Greatness

**November 24, 2019**

This will be our last week in the Gospel of Mark for a while. Next Sunday we begin a small Christmas series called Greater: Christmas From the Book of Hebrews. I will have the first and last messages in the series. In the middle, other pastors on our staff will fill the pulpit. We will also be rotating pastors across campuses. This will be a series to help us see the greatness of Jesus.

Today, we are still in the Gospel of Mark. We are talking about something that is important to all of us: How to be great in life, how to be a success in life. After all, none of us want to be failures. We want to be successes. This morning, we will discover there are two paths we can take to get there but only one leads to true and lasting greatness.

Turn in your Bibles to Mark 10:32. While you are turning, to help us understand these verses, let me remind us of their background. The background actually begins a chapter earlier in Mark 9:33. Jesus was in Galilee. He and the disciples came to Capernaum. They were in a house, which was most likely Peter's. In the house, Jesus asked the apostles what they were whispering about among themselves while they were walking on the road with Jesus on their way back from Mt. Hermon where the Transfiguration took place. They kept silent because on the way back they were discussing with one another which one of them was the greatest. Even though they didn't tell Jesus what they were talking about, Jesus knew their hearts, so he told them what they needed to hear. At that time, Jesus taught them that to be first in God's kingdom, you must be the

servant of everyone. Even though Jesus taught them that lesson, they didn't learn that lesson. It was like a bullet off a rock.

Today, we are a few weeks later. The disciples were about to enter Jerusalem with Jesus and were still arguing over who was the greatest. Jesus gave them, and us, another lesson of what true greatness looks like in the eyes of God. By the way, this won't be the last time Jesus needs to teach this lesson. The subject will come up again during the last week of his life in Jerusalem and on the very night Jesus was betrayed the disciples were still arguing over which of them was the greatest at the Last Supper.

At the Last Supper Jesus said the way the world will know Christians is by their love for one another. They were a long way from that in these verses. The way people recognized the apostles as Christians was their pride and willingness to step on one another and over one another. Let's turn to our text and see how the story unfolded.

And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of

the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:32–45 (ESV)

Jesus had a very hard time teaching his disciples the greatness of humility. I don’t think it was because the disciples were particularly dense but because pride ran particularly deep in their lives, just like it does in ours. That is why it is always important to talk about the importance of humility, even if we think we have learned the lesson.

This text unfolds around two paths to greatness. One is the path to greatness that comes from self-denial. The other is the path of greatness that comes from self-promotion. The path of greatness through self-denial is modeled by Jesus. The path of greatness through self-promotion is modeled by James and John. Greatness through self-promotion works well in the kingdom of men, but it doesn’t work in the kingdom of God. Greatness through self-denial works well in the kingdom of God, but it doesn’t work well in this world. Self-promotion is the currency in Satan’s kingdom. Self-denial is the currency of God’s kingdom. Each of us needs to decide which path to greatness we want to pursue and what kind of greatness we want.

### **Jesus modeled greatness through self-denial.**

And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him... Mark 10:32 (ESV)

Mark tells us Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. This is important to know. Everyone went up to Jerusalem. Jesus was on the Jericho road. Jericho is a low

point. From Jericho to Jerusalem is only 20 miles but it is a 3,500-foot climb in elevation. That is why people always went up to Jerusalem, straight up.

The best way I can describe this to you is when you are just about to get on the highway in Jackson, do you know that steep hill right before the highway? That is what it was like going up to Jerusalem but it was a 20-mile stretch. Remember they walked or road animals. They didn't drive high-powered cars.



It is also important for us to notice that Jesus was walking ahead of them. He was not lagging behind them or walking casually with them. He was leading the way. While Jesus was fearlessly leading the way, others were lagging behind, almost reluctant to go to Jerusalem. Why were many of Jesus' followers reluctant? For many, they expected conflict. They expected body bags. Jesus was already in conflict with the Jewish leaders who wanted him dead. They expected that would spill over into conflict with the Romans. Peter, and the other disciples, had recognized Jesus as the Messiah. They were expecting Jesus to start a war. They had a mental picture of an Old Testament king conquering a city. While they were sure Jesus would win, they expected death and blood along the way. That is why I believe they are lagging behind.

Jesus had a different idea of what he was going to Jerusalem to accomplish. He wasn't going to Jerusalem so people would die. He was going to Jerusalem so that he could die. This is the third time Jesus predicted his death in

Jerusalem. The first time was in Mark 8. Immediately after Peter confessed Jesus as the Messiah, Jesus told Peter he was not the conquering Messiah Peter expected. Jesus did not come to be a conquering king. He came to be a king that would suffer and die for our sin. Notice Jesus predicted his death with details.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. Mark 8:31 (ESV)

At that time, Peter would hear none of it. He couldn't accept it. One chapter later, Jesus again predicted his death in Jerusalem. He again predicted his death with details.

...for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise. Mark 9:31 (ESV)

In Mark 10, Jesus predicted his death for the third time and provided even more details.

...saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise." Mark 10:33–34 (ESV)

Look at the details. Jesus knew the Jewish Sanhedrin would condemn him to death. He knew they would turn him over to the Romans. He knew he would be mocked, spit upon, and flogged by the guards in the Roman Praetorium. He knew they would kill him. He knew he would rise from the dead after three days. Jesus knew all these things that would happen to him ahead of time. None of this was a mystery to him, yet he was leading the way when everyone else was afraid to go to Jerusalem. Jesus knew the amount of suffering he was about to experience in the next week was suffering beyond what had ever been

experienced by any other being in God's creation as he literally became sin for us and absorbed all of the filth of our sin into himself to die for our sin and absorb all of God the Father's wrath against sin.

Jesus knew all of this would happen, yet he led the way to Jerusalem. Why was he leading the way? He was modeling for us what greatness through self-denial looks like. In Jerusalem, Jesus denied himself. He denied his very life to save you and me from our sin. That is what true greatness looks like.

How did Jesus know all that would happen to him? I think there are two reasons. I think he knew his Bible and he has the knowledge of God.

**Jesus knew what would happen to him because he knew his Bible.**

Jesus knew his Bible extremely well. For him, it was just the Old Testament but the Old Testament is filled with details of how the Messiah would suffer. Zechariah 11:12 says Jesus would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. Jesus knew that would happen to him. Psalm 34:20 says none of the Messiah's bones would be broken. Jesus knew that would happen. Psalm 22:18 says the Messiah's clothes would be gambled for. Jesus knew they would gamble for his clothes. Psalm 69:21 says he would be given sour wine to drink. Jesus knew that horrid drink would be put to his lips before he died. Zechariah 12:10 says a spear would be thrust in his side. Jesus knew that spear would go into his body.

Psalm 16 talks about Jesus' resurrection. Jesus knew that after his death, all hope was not lost. He would rise from the grave because prophecy in the Old Testament spoke about it. Psalm 110 talks about Jesus ascension. Jesus knew that after his death he would return to the right hand of God the Father.

Isaiah 52 and 53 give detailed descriptions of Jesus' beating and death. Jesus knew all the physical horrors he would face. He was in the dark about none of his agonies because he knew his Bible and the prophecies about what would happen to him, yet he led the way into Jerusalem. He did that because he was modeling greatness through self-denial. He was denying his very life to save our lives as he became the sacrifice to save you and me.

**Jesus knew what would happen to him because he is God.**

Very clearly there are things Jesus knew about the future simply because he is God. In Mark 2, after Jesus healed the paralytic that was lowered through Peter's roof, he knew what people were thinking and the evil thoughts they had against him. In Matthew 17, Jesus knew the exact location of a fish that had a coin in its mouth. He knew where to tell Peter to fish and that the fish would bite Peter's lure so when Peter pulled up the fish, he could pay his taxes by the coin in the fish's mouth. Jesus knew the complete sexual history of the Samaritan woman at the well, a woman he never met. Jesus knew where a colt that had never been ridden would be tied so his disciples could go ahead of him to get it so it could be used for his triumphal entry. Jesus knew Jerusalem would be destroyed 40 years after his death. As God, he knew exactly what would happen in the future.

Everything that would happen to Jesus in Jerusalem was not by chance or mistake. Everything unfolded exactly the way God planned for it to unfold, down to the last detail. Look what Peter said in Acts about this.

...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. Acts 2:23 (ESV)

The point is Jesus knew all the details about the horrors he would face in Jerusalem, yet he didn't hesitate to go there. He led the way into the city because he was modeling greatness through self-denial for you and me as he denied his very life to be the sacrifice for our sin. Jesus models for us the path of greatness by self-denial.

Right after this, we have James and John trying to model the path of greatness through self-promotion.

### **James and John modeled greatness by self-promotion.**

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." Mark 10:35 (ESV)

James and John were also called the sons of thunder. That is not because they were part of an ancient motorcycle gang but because they were overbearing and bold in their personalities. They were part of Jesus' inner circle along with Peter. They were the closest to him. Since they were with Jesus all the time they thought they gained some extra relational brownie points with Jesus. After all, didn't Jesus take them with Peter up Mt. Hermon to see Jesus transfigured where his face shown like the sun and Jesus' clothes flashed bright as lightning? They thought that made them better than the rest of the disciples so they were bold enough to ask for a special privilege above the other disciples. In doing this power grab, they were cutting out Peter, who was also part of the inner three.

There is an interesting back story to this moment. Matthew wrote about the same incident, but he told us James and John brought their mother with them.

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. Matthew 20:20 (ESV)



If these guys were tough fishermen known as the sons of thunder, why were they bringing their mother with them to ask Jesus a question? That sounds pretty wimpy. The answer to the question lies in the identity of their mother. When we study the crucifixion, there were three women at the cross: Mary — Jesus' mother, Mary Magdalene, and a third woman. This third woman is identified in different ways. Matthew called her the mother of the sons of Zebedee. She was the mother of James and John. Mark called her Salome. Mark gave us her name. John called her the sister of Jesus' mother. So Jesus' mother and James and John's mother were sisters. The mother of James and John was Jesus' aunt. James and John were cousins of Jesus. The reason they brought their mother with them for this request was to exert some family pressure. They didn't think Jesus could say "No" to his favorite aunt. This was James and John trying to promote themselves through manipulation.

Incidentally, Salome went along with this plan. She was like most mothers. She didn't want anything for herself. She lived her life through the success of her children. Her minivan didn't have a sticker on it that said, "My sons are honors students at Capernaum High." The bumper sticker on her minivan said, "My sons are Jesus' apostles." This was an attempt by James, John, and their mother to pressure Jesus to elevate them above the other apostles. They were trying to self-promote to greatness.

You know they were going to ask Jesus an inappropriate request because not only did they bring their mother, but they initially refused to tell Jesus their request. They just said to Jesus, "We want you to do whatever we ask of you."

“Jesus, give us a blank check and send us to the mall. Jesus give us your credit card and let us go shopping for 30 minutes in the mall.” Anyone with a lick of intelligence would never let that happen. This is what children do to their parents when they know they are asking for something they should not have. “Dad, just say, ‘Yes.’ We will tell you later you just agreed to bring a home a new puppy.”

Jesus didn’t fall for it. He made them give their request before he said anything.

And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Mark 10:36–37 (ESV)

This was really brash. This was really arrogant. No was humility here at all. After being with Jesus for three years, they hadn’t learned a thing about humility. They were quite happy to put themselves first. After all, as apostles they were arguing about who was the greatest for quite some time. Finally, James and John had enough boldness to ask Jesus to be the greatest in his kingdom, to have the best seats in the house, one sitting at his right, the other at his left in his coming kingdom.

Obviously, they were still thinking Jesus would set up a military kingdom, an earthly kingdom in Jerusalem. Jesus told them how many times he was going to Jerusalem to die? Three times! Yet they refused to listen because they were so absorbed with promoting themselves and making sure they were the greatest.

Think of how prideful and unloving this was to the other disciples. Think of how this would work out for Peter, who was also part of the inner three. “Sorry Peter, you can’t be with Jesus. We asked for those seats before you did. There are only two seats and no room for you.”

This reminds me of college. When a few of us ordered a pizza and there were one or two pieces left and everyone was still hungry, the proper way to decide who ate those final pieces was a game of rock-paper-scissors. Sometimes we never got to that game because one of the roommates licked those pieces of pizza in front of everyone while they were still in the box. That was no fairness at all. They stole those pieces of pizza before anyone else could take them. That is what we have here. James and John were the pizza lickers. They were trying to steal the top two seats in the kingdom from everyone else because they were all about greatness through self-promotion. Let's see how Jesus handled this.

Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." Mark 10:38–40 (ESV)

Jesus was so patient. He didn't just shut them down. He said, "Do you have any idea what you are asking?" They had no idea what they were saying. When Jesus went into Jerusalem, he did not end up sitting on a throne with James and John at his left and right. He hung from a cross with criminals on his left and right.

Look what Jesus said about those highly exalted positions in his true eternal kingdom. Those positions are reserved for those who endure great suffering for the kingdom, like Jesus was about to endure great suffering for the kingdom. To be in those positions, James and John would need to suffer for the kingdom like Jesus denied himself and suffered for the kingdom. Jesus used two

metaphors to describe it. He said, “You will need to drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am about to endure.” That is referring to Jesus’ sufferings. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus said, “Let this cup pass from me.” Jesus was referring to the cup of God’s wrath. Drinking the cup Jesus drinks is a reference to suffering for the kingdom like Jesus suffered. The reference to baptism here was not talking about Christian baptism. It means to be plunged, submerged or drowned. “Are you ready to be drowned in persecutions and sufferings I am about to face for the kingdom? Can you handle it?”

James and John were ridiculously arrogant. They said that would be no problem. That is typical of human pride. Pride and self-promotion makes people overconfident and assume they can do anything. Jesus said to them, “You want to suffer for the kingdom, you will suffer for the kingdom, but those positions on my left and right in my eternal kingdom are not for me to grant. God the Father gives them out so he will decide who sits there.”

Let’s take a moment to step out of the narrative. How did things unfold for James and John in history? James was the first Christian martyr. He was killed by Herod Agrippa I in 40 A.D. His death is described in Acts 12:2. He had his head chopped off. John was the last of the apostles to die. Tradition tells us John was boiled in oil in a huge Fry-Daddy but he didn’t die. Since they couldn’t kill him they exiled him to the prison island of Patmos. In his old age he returned to Ephesus to live the final years of his life. While James was the first of the apostles to die, John was the last of the apostles to die.

So will James and John be at Jesus' left and right in his eternal kingdom? I don't know. Only God the Father knows. He assigns those seats. I suspect not because those positions are reserved for those who denied themselves at great cost and suffered for the kingdom, like Jesus.

What about the rest of the apostles? How did they react when they found out about James' and John's attempt to get the best seats in the kingdom behind their backs?

And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. Mark 10:41 (ESV)

What is funny is they were not indignant not because James and John were underhandedly trying to steal the best seats in the kingdom. They were indignant because they didn't think of trying to steal those seats before James and John did. They wanted to do the same thing! How do we know that? In Mark 9, all the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest. All of the apostles want the title of being the greatest! James and John were the ones who had enough guts to ask for that title, they even tried using their mother, Jesus' favorite aunt, to try and twist Jesus' arm into saying, "Yes."

So we have seen Jesus pursuing greatness by self-denial. He was leading the way into Jerusalem where he knew all the details of his horrid death that would unfold. He was going to Jerusalem to deny himself to the point of denying his life and becoming sin to save you and me. Jesus was pursuing greatness by giving his life up. On the other hand, we have James, John and the rest of the apostles who were pursuing greatness by self-promotion. They were arguing about who is the greatest and trying to manipulate and steal positions of

greatness. Which of these two paths leads to real greatness? Jesus pulled his disciples, and us, aside and gave them answer.

**Jesus explained the path to greatness in God's kingdom is found by walking in his footsteps.**

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all." Mark 10:42–44 (ESV)

The apostles were infected by worldly thinking. Their idea of what true greatness looked like came from worldly rulers around them. They thought greatness came by elevating themselves over others. They thought greatness came when they exercised authority over others. They thought greatness was becoming a dictator, despot, and being in control. That is the way the Romans led. That is the way Pilate led. That is the way everyone around them led. Corruption and manipulation works well when people pursue that kind of thinking and they claw their way to the top.

Notice Jesus didn't tell them they should stop wanting to be great. He didn't rebuke their desire for greatness. He doesn't rebuke our desire for greatness. Jesus simply redefined what true greatness looks like in the eyes of God. True greatness is not found when we try to elevate ourselves over other people so we can tell them what to do. True greatness is found when we get under other people, try to be their servant and help them, like Jesus did for us.

In other words, in God's kingdom, the highest places of privilege are not reserved for those with the most power over people. They are reserved for those who placed themselves in the lowest positions under other people to serve them.

The way you find true greatness in God's eyes is not by seeing how many people you can step on and step over. It is by seeing how many people you can humbly serve, how low you can go, and how much inconvenience and suffering you are willing to endure to love and serve others, like Jesus did for you and me.

Jesus said focus on being a servant of others. That is the Greek word *diakonos*. It means be a table waiter. Don't be the person that everybody serves in the restaurant. Have the mindset that you are the person who serves everyone else in the restaurant. Be the person that serves everybody, like Jesus did for us. That is where true greatness is found. Use your life to give to other people and serve other people. Don't use your life to get from other people and make people serve you. Greatness in God's kingdom is found by serving others, as Christ gave himself up to serve us.

It doesn't end there. Jesus says you want to know what it is like to be in first place? Be the slave of all. This is the Greek word *doulos*. Slaves were inferior to servants. Servants did a job, and they earned something. Slaves were owned and controlled. Slaves received nothing in return for their work. They were lower than servants. Jesus said, "You want true greatness? You want first place? Be the slave of all people, not just some people. That is how you get first place in my kingdom." It is one thing to say these things, but it is easier if there is a model to follow. Jesus gave himself as the model to follow to show us what true greatness looks like in action.

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45 (ESV)

This is the gospel. Jesus is the example of greatness. This is the good news we need. Jesus refers to himself as the Son of Man. If you have been with us, you will remember that is a title originally used in Daniel 7:13 where one like a Son of Man — that is a human being — comes to the Ancient of Days — that is God the Father — and he is given all kingdoms and authority. The Son of Man is the one who is given the authority to rule over all kingdoms and all nations and everything in the universe. Jesus said, “The person who holds the highest place in the entire universe is me. I am the Son of Man. I am the king of kings. I was given the right to rule everything and everyone by God the Father.” Jesus is as high as you can go in the universe, but he is also going to serve us by going as low as you can go.

The one who is the highest and most elevated came not to make servants but to be a servant. He did not come to get but to give. Jesus came to give and give and give until he gave his very life as the ransom price to be paid for you and me.

The word ransomed is a unique word. It is the Greek word *lutron*. In Jesus' day the ransom price was the price paid to free a prisoner of war, a slave, or a prisoner from the dungeon. In biblical language, all of us are sinners. We are enslaved to our sin. The debt of our sin against God needs to be paid. The only way for us to go free is if the ransom price is paid. Jesus said that is what he was going into Jerusalem to do. He was going to die to pay the ransom price for our lives to set us free from our slavery and debt to sin. Look how Isaiah described what Jesus was going into Jerusalem to accomplish.



But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5–6 (ESV)

So we have the most elevated king — the Son of Man from Daniel 7 who rules over all creation — going into Jerusalem to be the lowest servant of all from Isaiah 53. He was serving us by his life paying the ransom price for our sin. The highest person in the universe took the lowest position in the universe to rescue hell-bound humanity. That is what true greatness, greatness through self-denial, looks like in action.

This is why Jesus is our model of what greatness looks like. He didn't come to step on people and climb over them but he came to humble himself and to serve us. Paul detailed this out in his letter to the Philippians.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:3–11 (ESV)

What happened because Jesus was the greatest self-denying servant in the universe? God the Father gave him the highest and most exalted position in the universe. The same is true for you and me. In God's eternal kingdom, the only way for greatness to be found is by denying ourselves and serving others like Jesus served us. In that day, when Christ comes into his kingdom, the more

we have denied ourselves and served others in this life, the greater our exaltation in Christ's kingdom in the next life. Let me give the two big ideas I want us to remember.

## Conclusion

**The pathway to true greatness is self-denial and serving others, as Jesus denied himself and served us.** In this world, everyone is trying to be great by climbing over others and exercising power over others. That may be the recipe for greatness in this world, but it is not the recipe for greatness in God's eternal kingdom. The pathway to true greatness comes when we deny ourselves and serve others, just like Jesus did for us. That pathway is offered to all of us today.

**The more we are willing to deny ourselves to serve others for the kingdom, the greater our rewards will be in the kingdom.** Mark taught us this in chapter 10 and Paul taught us this in Philippians 2. The greater the sacrifice we make to deny ourselves and serve others in this life, the greater the reward from God the Father in the next life.

This week is Thanksgiving. We already know who the greatest person in the house will be on that day. It will be the person who works so hard in the kitchen to serve everyone else at the table. To everyone else that is doing the eating, don't let the cook get all the eternal rewards for selflessly serving others so well. After dinner, instead of watching football, get up and do the dishes and serve the cook.

Of course, this doesn't just apply to Thanksgiving. It applies to all of life. This week let us deny ourselves and serve others like Jesus served us. That is the path to where true greatness is found.



Dr. Kurt Trucksess is in the Evangelical Free of America. He enjoys writing, and time with his family. Feel free to him at [www.Christ2RCulture.com](http://www.Christ2RCulture.com) ([www.c2rc.com](http://www.c2rc.com))



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