

What Makes You Great?
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But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. Mark 10:43-44

You don't have to be the greatest!

Many of us strive to be the greatest at everything. We teach our kids the same. Of course, we say, you don't have to be number one. But they know we love it when they are. Whether it's sports, our jobs, our personal vocations as dad, mom, friend, spouse, we live with a certain pressure to be successful.

We tend to look at our life in Christ in a similar fashion. Who's the greatest? The disciples asked, compared, judged each other and probably themselves. What about you? Are you a good disciple? Trying to be better? Feel guilty for not being the best?

Jesus flips our goals on their head. He told His disciples that if they desire to be first, they must be last and servant of all. He wasn't giving them an assignment because He then picked up a little kid and said, "Whoever welcomes a little one like this in my name welcomes me!" (Matthew 18:5) What makes the kid great? Jesus' name! Kids are really last in society in terms of value. They don't know anything, they are weak. They are uncivilized. They are helpless. That's what Jesus means by last.

Yet they are first because Jesus says so. Period. You don't need to worry about being the best disciple for God to love you or value you. Your value in God's kingdom and Jesus' church has absolutely nothing to do with what you do. It's ok to be last - a sinner! Jesus who is first became last on the cross for you! He has put His name on you! You are a child of God! Unlike other vocations, you should never be stressed out by being a Christian and disciple of Jesus.