

I. Introduction: Three most difficult commandments: don't worry about today (Matt 6:34), deny self and take up your own cross daily, and follow Him (Luke 9:23-224)

II. Spirit of Competition (Matt 20:20)

People want to win over someone else.

The mother of the apostles John and James wanted them to sit at the right and left hands of Jesus .

The apostles wanted to know who would be greatest in the Kingdom.

Jesus' reply was that serving others was better than winning over other people (Matt 20:20-28)

Were James and John able to drink the cup that Jesus drank? Other apostles became indignant at their request.

III. The Lord's definition of success

Success is not winning out over others, having power over others, or dominating others.

God does not want to dominate over us the way many parents want to dominate their children to make them dependent on their parents

Success is not political, military, economic, physical or mental power over others .

Diotrephes lusted after power over the church and caused much anguish. (John III)

For most people, their world is a type of pyramid with them lusting to be the one on the very top.

God defines success in terms of being of service to others. (Matt 20:26)

Jesus washed the feet of the disciples to show he was a servant to all.

IV. Being a servant

Jesus was a servant to all the people. (Matt 20:28)

All Biblical heroes were servants: John the Baptist; Paul who suffered great persecution and pain

Roman coin - ox, altar, and plow - be ready to suffer as a sacrifice or work in the fields

James and John - James was beheaded (the altar), John lived in prison and exile while he spread the Word (the plow)

Other examples of Christian servants: Dorcas, Peter, Lydia, Priscilla and Aquila, Luke

V. Being a servant today

"Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your slave." Jesus came to serve, not to be served

It is very difficult and unnatural for man to want to serve and not want to be at the top in control.

"Love is as love does."

VI. On the Judgment Day - did you serve God?

Will you be a sheep or a goat? (Matt 25:31-)

Did you feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, invited a stranger in, provide clothes, visited those sick and in prison?

Your actions in serving others will determine eternal life or eternal punishment.

VII. Conclusion

The greatest need in the world is for people to have a servant's attitude.

We must be humble enough to look for others needs and to let others help us with our needs.