

## **ReGroup 10/30/22**

### **Something Needs to Change:**

### **Greatness Redefined - Luke 22:24-30**

John the Baptist stepped on the scene back in Luke 3 and declared that God was starting a brand new movement, but we could easily miss out on it if we weren't paying close attention. Not only that, but the pathway God would be calling people to take would be contrary to the one we naturally take. From the aspirations we should have, to the attitudes we conduct ourselves with, to the actions we take - John says we will be radically reborn and changed from the inside-out as members of God's New Kingdom. Gone would be our old, worldly way of seeing, thinking, and doing, replaced with a brand new mind and heart from God.

Remember how John reacted to those who came from the Jewish religion and worldly offices? **Recall Luke 3:7-14 to hear how clear he was about the new way of life that God was about introduce the world to and enable people to step into. Thinking back to what we've learned so far, what has been most been the most challenging change demanded of us in Luke's Gospel? What have you learned and attempted to change about your life that has brought you closer to God?**

Obviously at the heart of the change God was bringing into the world and leading us into was *Jesus*. From His entrance into the world, it was clear that Jesus would not abide by the rules of this world or operate within the parameters of this world. He was born into a *poor* family, not a rich or powerful one. He came into the world *under scrutiny*, through a mother who many assumed had been sinful. His birth announcement was heralded by angels, yet not to dignitaries but *to shepherds*. He was laid in a manger, surrounded by livestock, because nobody assumed Him to be *anything special*. All of these point to how Jesus would change the world by *subverting expectations*. He hadn't come to affirm the way things had always been, but to introduce a superior way of life to the world, and align our hearts with true greatness.

Along the way Jesus proved to have very different goals from this world. This was no more apparent than over the last few weeks of His life when He seemingly threw away a massive following, burning bridges with the religious and the rich. People couldn't figure Jesus out at this point. He had all the power at His finger tips, He could do anything and have anything that He wanted, but He insisted on turning away from it and seeking to upend it. The things He said against the treasures of this world and the Jewish religious establishment were very perplexing to all that listened to Him, especially those very close to Him.

As He sat down to celebrate the Passover one last time, it should have become crystal clear what His agenda was - as He broke the bread and passed the cup, saying it was now a picture of Him. He was previewing the sacrifice He was about to make, however it went right over His disciples' heads so much so that they immediately change the subject! Can you imagine???

The topic they bring up next is one that they discussed a lot in their circle, hoping to nudge Jesus into speaking on the matter. Jesus would always either ignore or rebuke them, but they kept bringing it back up. As they sat around the table with Jesus, this would be the last time they ever brought this subject up to Him, as He would once and for all silence them on it, and make clear His vision for their future and the future of His movement. His words that followed and His actions taken later than night prove all the more that Jesus came to introduce a brand new way of life to our world, and most of all, redefine what it means to be great, reset our expectations and goals along the lines of the Kingdom of God.

### ***All That Glitters Isn't...***

Read **Luke 22:24-30** and discuss how disrespectful it must have been to Jesus and how out of touch His disciples must have been for them to argue about which of them would be the greatest in Jesus' Kingdom. He literally just told them about His impending sacrifice on their behalf, and they cling to the idea that Jesus had come to establish some earthly kingdom, in which they would have authority and power. Jesus details how He was going to lay aside His privilege and serve them, but they just cannot accept it.

The Disciples often argued about who was greater than the other, and who might be Jesus' second or third in command. It was as if they were only following Him with hopes that He might prop up and advance the kingdoms they were already building.

They had been trained by the world to judge the quality of life according to one's power, wealth and possessions. **Talk about how the world trains us to operate on this axis that is always chasing more, which defines greatness by way of comparison: those that have power, wealth, authority, etc vs those that have not.**

The Disciples, along with the rest of Israel, longed for the days we briefly read about in the Old Testament. During the reign of Solomon the nation of Israel ascended to a place of worldly fame and prominence. Everyone before Solomon dreamed of these days and everyone after Solomon clung to the memories of these days. Israel became an influential, powerful, and very rich nation during Solomon's reign and became the envy of the world. Leaders from around the world came to visit and left impressed.

For many, this was as good as it could get and clearly the ideal way of life. 2 Chronicles 9 tells us that gold became *the standard* for Solomon's Israel, and silver became so common that people didn't even consider it valuable anymore. *However, there were some signs that the golden glitter still left more to be desired...* In one of the many lists of Solomon's greatness,, there is this interesting note about his income - **1 Kings 10:14**. You'll recognize that this is number associated with the Beast of **Revelation 13:18**, who many consider to be the coming Anti-Christ. **Regardless, this connection cannot be overlooked, can it?** The point is that Solomon's Israel may not have been as glorious as it was remembered to be. His greatness was actually enabling a great falling away across the nation. It's important to remember this - how all of this power and wealth led Israel to forget about God and actually begin worshipping idols of this world.

Solomon himself would leave behind a word of warning for those that long for days like he oversaw in **Proverbs 30:8-9**. Solomon prays for neither poverty nor riches, but it's important to note that Solomon never knew what it was like to be poor, but he was *very familiar* with wealth and power and he taught us to pray for God to "remove it far from us" and for God to only give us what we needed for "each day".

Solomon left behind this warning sight that the world's desire for greater and more was misguided. Jesus came to confirm and punctuate this message. **Why would Solomon teach us to pray for *only* our “daily bread”?** **How does this go against our instinctual desires and worldly agendas?**

### ***Not So With You***

So, when Jesus reads the hearts of His disciples longing for the glory of days of Israel to return through Him and hoping that He would usher in a kingdom and give them great power and authority - He remarks to them that this is *not to be* the goals or aspirations of His followers. In **Luke 22:25-27** He makes it clear that in the Kingdom He was initiating, *greatness* would not be measured as they once understood it. Jesus was calling them to a life of service, as He had modeled and like He would make very clear in His death. **Talk about how Jesus was resetting their/ our expectations and realigning their desires for this life in verse 26.** He identifies how we all may dream of being “greater than” according to this world's axis, but then He flips the script and details the superior pathway available to us. He then tells them that they were to truly anticipate and one day experience life in the Coming Kingdom, they would follow in His steps and proclaim this new standard of greatness to their worlds.

### ***All The Power In The Room***

In closing, let's look at some familiar passages that further elaborate on Jesus' servanthood and invite us to mimic with our own lives. John 13 is a complimentary passage to Luke 22, where we get some insight to what Jesus' frame of mind was as they reclined at the Passover table. Consider these verses:

- **John 13:1-5)** Jesus has a renewed awareness of His divine favor and His earthly opposition, and He thinks about how He might spend His last day on earth. He makes a conscious choice to lay down His power and leverage it for others. **How** does this reflect the new definition of greatness we've been introduced to? **How** does Jesus' actions at the Passover meal reflect the actions He had already taken in coming from Heaven to Earth to save us? **How** might we similarly leverage our power

and influence for those in our lives; at home, at work, across social boundaries in our world, etc.?

- **John 13:12-17)** Jesus explicitly commands that we follow suit in His life of service, by saying He's set an example for us. Foot washing in the ancient world was considered the most humbling act of service one could be tasked to do, yet Jesus says in His Kingdom, such an act would leave us blessed and happy (v17). **Talk about how this captures the contrast between this world's idea of success and the Kingdom's.**
- **Philippians 2:1-11)** Listen to and **discuss** how Paul gives us a practical application of how we might adopt Jesus' model in our daily lives in verses 3-5. **How** does His description of Jesus' life of service and future glory point to God's reward for us? Knowing what Christ did and commands of us, **how** can we still fall for this world's idea of greatness?