
Words of Truth

You're Not A Superstar In The Kingdom

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Too often, because our society is pathetically weak, people accomplish some step in life and they get the "I have arrived" mentality. Since our culture here in the United States so heavily promotes mediocrity, when someone does something that should be expected of him or her, they actually think they have accomplished something great. It is frankly – PATHETIC. Then, when someone does something that is well beyond the low standards set, people think a "super deed" has been accomplished. Parties are thrown for people who have done something that they should have been expected to do in the first place. Unfortunately, we have to live amongst this mentality. Therefore, we must be cautious as things we live around often rub off on us (I Corinthians 15:33). Thus, we have to guard ourselves against the thinking of this world (Romans 12:1-3). While the carnal things that this mindset normally surrounds is not that concerning, the mindset can and does often pour into spiritual things.

To keep ourselves from mediocrity or the superman mentality, we have to keep the right perspective of who we really are (Matthew 10:24) as well as whose we are (Mark 9:41). As Christians, we are urged by Jesus to keep our place in life in the forefront of our minds. Jesus said: *"But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are **unprofitable servants**: we have done that which was our duty to do"* (Luke 17:7-10).

When you read our Lord saying that we are "unprofitable servants", doesn't that humble you? Whether you are capable of much or of little isn't that really just a matter of what God has equipped you to be able to do (Matthew 25:14-30)? When you consider that every ability you have is God-given (I Peter 4:11), doesn't that put what you are capable of doing in perspective? Can you live for one second without the sun, moon, stars, oxygen, etc.? Who gives those things (Isaiah 42:5, Matthew 5:45, and Acts 14:17)? We have to be humble. Whether it is great or small, our accomplishments need to be kept in the proper perspective. We have to realize who the Creator is and what that makes us!

The Humility To Realize The Difference Between The Potter And The Clay

Paul said that he served the Lord with "all humility of mind" (Acts 20:19). Being humble is a necessity for us to be saved. Notice: *"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."*

Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up... Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (James 4:6-10 and I Peter 5:5-6).

Isaiah said: *"But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand"* (Isaiah 64:8). Paul asked: *"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour"* (Romans 9:20-21)? God is the Creator (Isaiah 40:28). We are HIS creation (Genesis 1:27). He is the Almighty (Revelation 1:8). He is stronger and wiser (I Corinthians 1:25). Without Him, we wouldn't exist. Without Him, we couldn't continue to exist (II Peter 3:4-9). We are the clay. He is the potter. Who are we to think we are great when, without Him, we are NOTHING?

What happens when someone does something and they then exalt themselves? Here is what Jesus said: *"And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted"* (Matthew 23:12). After reading that, do you really want to think that you are "great"? Do you really think that pride will get us somewhere good (Proverbs 16:18-19, Proverbs 29:23, and Luke 18:9-14)?

Putting Things In Perspective

How smart are you? How strong are you? How great are you in your career field? Think about those questions. Take a real look at yourself and ask yourself how great you think you are (II Corinthians 13:5). Now, consider something else. What does it mean to God if you are "great" at something? Here is the answer: *"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord"* (Jeremiah 9:23-24). You cannot impress God. You cannot do something "great" in His sight. How would you impress the Almighty who can do things well beyond our imaginations (Job 5:8-9, Job 37:5, and Psalms 136:1-26)? Therefore, if you are out to impress, be honest and know that you are not doing it for God. If you are trying to be "impressive", you are doing so to be such in the sight of men. Where will the desire to impress and please men get you (II Corinthians 10:12-18 and Galatians 1:10)?

Conclusion

Heaven will not be obtained because you have done something great. Without our Lord's doing, no one would be saved (Ephesians 2:1-10). We are expected to do "good works" (Titus 3:8). However, those "good works", even if they are "great works" in your sight, will never be enough on their own (Philippians 3:8-9 and Titus 3:5). No one of us is a "superstar" in the kingdom of our Lord. We are merely unprofitable servants doing that which is our duty to do (Proverbs 16:1-4, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, I Corinthians 15:10, and Revelation 4:11).