



# getting to the top

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## When does greatness come?

1. Greatness comes when we \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Luke 9:46-48a

a. Consistently \_\_\_\_\_ to come alongside the \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Greatness comes when we \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.  
Luke 9:49-50

a. Establish \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Take Home Truth

Greatness comes when we are \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Luke 9:48b



## Deeper Connection

This passage begins with a question concerning greatness in God's kingdom. Jesus provides a deeper look into what God values as well as how his people should live as kingdom disciples.

*Today's Core Virtue discussed: Humility*

### Read Luke 9:46-50 [par. Matt. 18:1-5; Mk. 9:33-40]

1. What does it really mean to "receive" a child (v. 48)?  
What is Jesus emphasizing by making this statement?
2. How does God view greatness and how is this opposed to the world's view? How is this highlighted in Matthew 18:1-3 in regards to humbling ourselves?
3. Why is this kind of humility so highly valued in Jesus' kingdom agenda (cf. Micah 6:8)? In light of this, how should Jesus' disciples act?
4. What do the following verses say that challenges you to live in humility?  
Prov. 3:34  
Prov. 15:33; 18:12  
Prov. 16:18-19  
Prov. 22:4  
Prov. 27:2  
Matt. 5:3  
Col. 3:12  
1 Peter 5:5b-6
5. Why is John so concerned about someone else (v. 49)?  
How does Jesus respond (v. 50)?
6. What thoughts and actions need to happen for you to draw closer to Jesus in humility?

**PRAYER TO THE POINT:** Praise God for Jesus' example of humility. Ask God to help you humbly relate to others in a way that exalts Christ. Pray that you can exhibit a lifestyle of humble reliance upon God and thereby understand greatness in God's kingdom.



Let's be honest, no one likes to come in last place. Nascar drivers don't start a race with the goal to finish last. Olympic slalom skiers don't come out of the gate thinking "I want to end at the bottom of the bracket," and corporate America doesn't establish a sales goal in January to finish the year 5 million dollars behind in revenue from their competitor. Everyone wants to win!

Understand, the desire to win is not merely a twenty-first century issue; it is a mankind issue. Cain wanted to be better than his brother Abel, Judah and his ten brothers wanted to be better than their younger brother Joseph, and James and John wanted to be better than the other ten disciples. So really, who is the greatest? Alexander said he was the greatest; some time later Nero said he was the greatest; then centuries later even Mohammad Ali said he was the greatest. Tragically at one time or another, if not said, all of us have thought we were the greatest, hence the reason we put our needs above others.

So who really is great and how did they get there? Well Jesus is going to let us know today ☺

