

**WORD PICTURES OF THE CHURCH
GREATNESS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD
THE MARK OF GREATNESS**

"Matthew 20:25–28 (NIV)

²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1. The Mark of Jesus' Greatness.

—²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The mark of Jesus' greatness was to serve and to give his life

Jesus came to occupy, not a "throne" but a "cross."
Not a "conquering King" but "one broken on a cross."
Not a "raging lion of Judah" but the "gentle lamb of God."

2. The Mark of an Individual's Greatness

A child expects to be served. But at some point maturity should take place and a person should move from being served to serving others.

1 Thessalonians 2:8: "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."

3. The Mark of a Church's Greatness

A great church is made up of people each one using his spiritual gifts to serve others and in so doing Jesus is lifted up.

1 Peter 4:10. *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

Our **MISSION** is to Make disciples of Jesus Christ in safe, relational environments.

Our **VISION** is to reach our world with Jesus one person at a time.

A church should have a two prong focus:

1. We are about relationships.

True disciples are relational.

2. We should be about reaching the lost and unchurched.

A church should have a three prong ministry:

1. Ministering to wounded soldiers
2. Carrying out resurrection ministry
3. Ministry development

REFLECTION:

Do I have a sacrificial attitude with my time, money and talent?

Am I following the example of Jesus, coming to people to serve and to give my life to them?

If I moved into a town where there were several churches, how would I select a church?

Would I be looking for a church that could serve me or for a church where I could serve it?