

POSITIONED FOR THE KINGDOM

It was the time of the Passover celebration. As Jesus walked toward Jerusalem, knowing that this was His time to be The Passover Lamb, He was teaching His disciples that humility is a qualification for greatness in His kingdom. He knew that their fleshly thoughts about authority and position in life were focused on elevating themselves, their abilities, and credentials.

In [Matthew 18:1-3](#), the disciples were debating, **"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."** Jesus replied by calling forth a child and then using the humble innocence of the child as an example of greatness.

In [Matthew 20:20-23](#), when the mother of James and John came to Jesus and asked Him to designate her sons to sit on His right and left hand in His Kingdom, Jesus did not rebuke her. (Actually, she was a good Jewish mama wanting the best for her sons.) Jesus answered, **"You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?"** They replied, **"We are able."** Then Jesus told them that they must become servants in order to be great, just as He Himself had come to serve, not to be served.

The same problem of misunderstanding what constitutes greatness in the Kingdom occurs today. We are inclined to look to leaders who "are successful," who exhibit authority, and have the ability to build an "empire" -- like a CEO of a corporation. God, however, is looking for people of excellence to build the Kingdom of God, not an empire. In God's economy, that person must be willing to deny himself and exhibit humility. He will be a leader capable of networking with other anointed people of holiness to bring the Body of Christ together across the lines of denominations, races, genders, and abilities. I believe our Lord is calling teachable people, whom He will qualify, to positions of greatness in Him -- in His Kingdom.

Positions of greatness in the Kingdom are filled by persons of humility. God's anointing gives them authority. It is not "the person" who is great, but "The Person" who lives in them Who is all authority. God is calling those into greatness in His Kingdom who are willing to give up "empire building." **"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you."** [1 Peter 5:6](#)

(As I have traveled in rural America, I have observed "little empires" as well as "the networking of Kingdom building." "Successful ministry" is merging into networks like those in Kansas and Nebraska. See the article about the Kansas Explosion.)