

“Humility: Power to Serve”
by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture Reading: Luke 22: 24-30 NRSVue

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ But he said to them, “The kings of the gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you; rather, the greatest among you must become like the youngest and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸ “You are those who have stood by me in my trials, ²⁹ and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, ³⁰ so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Who is the greatest ever:

- a. President of the United States?
- b. Athlete of all time?
- c. Actor?
- d. Disciple?

1. What makes for greatness?
2. What do you think Jesus was thinking and feeling as the disciples were having this greatness debate? What was about to happen to Jesus?
3. After all of the disciple’s big talk about greatness, how did they fare when the going got tough for Jesus?
4. How does Jesus define the world’s idea of greatness? He then says “but not so with you.” Why are we to be different?
5. What does leadership look like that views oneself as the youngest?
6. What does leadership look like that views oneself as a servant?
7. How did Jesus exhibit this expression of leadership throughout his life?
8. Verses 28-30 take an interesting turn. Jesus was just talking about the humility of being the youngest and a table waiter, then he talks about kingdoms conferred, eating at banquet tables, and ruling over others. What changed? There is a Scripture that says, “humble thyself in the sight of the Lord and he will lift you up.” How might that apply to this passage?