



I really pray you are being challenged and provoked through this series, because I think the first hearers of Jesus would have been exactly that. But even more important, my prayer for us all is that we would be rooted in the faith. That we would have no misunderstanding concerning salvation and forgiveness, and that we would grow and mature in our relationship with Christ and in fellowship with one another.

One of the things that has been outstanding to me during our investigation of the 50 commands of Jesus, is that there is nothing left untouched in our lives. Jesus will not stay confined in our box of religion, but stretches into our thought life, our affections, our marriages, money matters. There seems to be nothing off limits to Him!

Yesterday on Facebook, I saw Dr. Brown has posted this status, "If we choose to have Jesus as our limited Lord, we may find Him to be our sometimes Savior." There is such confusion on this point... Many of us confuse unconditional love with unconditional blessing. The church in her confusion, would have Jesus become our servant, and maybe even slave. After all, He's obligated to forgive and bless. It's a subtle and terrible twisting that will no doubt end in destruction. The boundaries and borders of the Law are good! The lines fall for us in pleasant places.

### **I. #35-LEAD BY BEING A SERVANT**

#### ***Matthew 20***

***[20] Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. [21] And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." [22] Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." [23] He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." [24] And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. [25] But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. [26] It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, [27] and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, [28] even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."***

- A. Greatness has nothing to do with charisma or talent. It has to do with the disposition of the heart. It's an amazing thing that especially in ministry circles we get this backwards so much of the time. Can you imagine celebrating a school teacher if all his/her students failed their standardized testing? The proof of his/her gift and function is in the fruit of the students.
  
- B. Greatness can't be seen by looking directly at the branch, it is only truly evident through the inspection of the fruit.

#### ***Jeremiah 3***

***[15] "And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.***



**Matthew 18**

*[1] At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" [2] And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them [3] and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. [4] Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

C. Jesus doesn't rebuke us for wanting to be great! He wants us to be great!! But he directs us to the real reward...

**Ephesians 4**

*[11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

D. My job as a preacher is not to be a great preacher... it's to make you great, to see that you're rooted, steady and bearing good fruit! You are called to be the most excellent ones of the land! If you'll let me, I'd like to save you hundreds of dollars in leadership training. Will you let me? Here goes... Set your heart to serve God's people, God's lambs. Aim to be a blessing. Aim to build up others in the body. Strive to pick up part of the load. Serve! Serve now in the small things. Bless one another. Our goal here isn't to build Resound Missions Base...it's to build you! There is a difference. And when we forget, when I forget, the Lord is faithful to remind us and lead us back into the faith.

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

— Mother Teresa

**II. #36-MAKE THE CHURCH A HOUSE OF PRAYER**

**Mark 11**

*[15] And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. [16] And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. [17] And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." [18] And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching.*



- A. We can have every kind of activity, every kind of ministry...but if we forget to communion with God we have ceased to be the church. Your first ministry is to God, to minister to Him.

**Isaiah 56**

*[3] Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say,  
"The LORD will surely separate me from his people";*

*and let not the eunuch say,  
"Behold, I am a dry tree."*

*[4] For thus says the LORD:*

*"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,  
who choose the things that please me  
and hold fast my covenant,*

*[5] I will give in my house and within my walls  
a monument and a name  
better than sons and daughters;*

*I will give them an everlasting name  
that shall not be cut off.*

*[6] "And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,  
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,  
and holds fast my covenant—*

*[7] these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;*

*for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples."*

*[8] The Lord GOD,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,  
"I will gather yet others to him  
besides those already gathered."*

- B. The house of prayer movement is connected to the gentile church! This is a huge part of our mandate, and in my understanding, the key to provoking the Jews to jealousy.

**Acts 15**

*[16] "After this I will return,  
and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;  
I will rebuild its ruins,  
and I will restore it,*

*[17] that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,  
and all the Gentiles who are called by my name,  
says the Lord, who makes these things [18] known from of old.'*



- C. We started as a House of Prayer. This is the main thing. It will always be the main thing. Let me say it like this; if we aren't a house of prayer, then we aren't a church. Every ministry, every service must flow out of corporate communion.

### III. #37-PRAY IN FAITH

#### *Matthew 21*

*[18] In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. [19] And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once.*

*[20] When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" [21] And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, **if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. [22] And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.**"*

- A. So, we've been commanded to pray. And now Jesus commands us to pray in faith. Jesus is never flippant. Every word is true and purposed. Nothing He has declared will prove to be false or unfruitful. The very mountain that Jesus references will be thrown into the sea at His coming! This isn't a casual remark.

#### *Zechariah 4*

*[4] On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. [5] And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains.... Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.*

- B. We are sons of God. We need to act like it. This body has a particular assignment...and we need to be experts at it, but we need to be careful that in all our expertise we don't neglect the other truths, or make them void by our lack of demonstration. We are called to have faith in our God. Faith that He hears us and faith that He will answer our cry.

#### *John 15*

*[4] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. [5] I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. [7] If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [8] By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

- C. What are you asking the Lord to do? Do you have faith that He will do it? Let's put all our faith in Him and His ability to answer.