

Kingdom Equations

Pastor Craig Barber | Sept 19, 2021 | Greatness = Submission + Service + Sacrifice

Big Idea

We all want to be great! While there is nothing wrong with fame or being known, God is more interested in the way that you live your life and much less interested in how many likes your recent photo received on Instagram. Greatness in God's economy is all about service and humility.

Let's Talk

1. The whole world for your soul? What would it look like to “gain the whole world”? We see people in our world today who earn billions of dollars and control empires that we could not have imagined 50 years ago, but they experience the same pains of life that everyone else does. A few of those pains they may experience might be divorce, death, family problems, and grief. There is no amount of money or stature you can gain to outrun the troubles of life. When we follow the way of Jesus, we are letting go of the struggle to fight for fame, and we will begin clinging to the things that bring life to our souls.

“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?” Mark 8:34 – 37

2. Service and Sacrifice. When we serve others, we are walking in the way of Jesus. When we give of ourselves for the good of others (oftentimes without any fanfare or adulation), we are practicing this Kingdom Equation of greatness. Are you open to opportunities to serve others? Would you be willing to sacrifice your comfort this week to make a difference in your community?

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

Reflect & Respond

These ideas are not complicated. We all know what it looks like to serve and care for another person. The difficulty comes when we live out these principles and rely on the future payoff for our efforts. Are you willing to put off immediate gratification and invest in the eternal? Will you trade earthly greatness for Kingdom greatness?