

## The Great I AM or “How Great I Am” – Luke 9:46-48

We live in a world infected with a deadly disease! **An epidemic of self!**

There is a deep-rooted obsession in all of us to be first, to be the greatest, to have the best, to be the center of attention, & have a seat at the table!

This disease is not that of striving for excellence, **it is the redefining of excellence based upon our overinflated view of ourselves!**

God’s Word tells us “**not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought**”, but that is exactly what we do b/c we have been afflicted with this disease!

We are a people consumed with our own status & how we can increase it, so we seek titles, degrees, offices & positions what will satisfy our cravings.

We believe, to be someone of significance, is to be someone who is better than others! Better may affect position, but **it shouldn’t affect significance**

Examples from the young & old! This disease of self does not discriminate!

- From the best seat on the school bus to the best seat in the conference room, from being first on the playground to being first in the retirement community, from having the best play toy to having the best & biggest house/car/boat, from being the teacher’s pet to being the VP of the company!

We have an obsession with status & **it causes us to elevate the wrong things**

Examples: In our society, do we elevate authority or humility, being served or serving others, taking what we can get or working hard to earn it?

Consider the sermon title, are you/I seeking to serve & honor the Great “I AM” or are we consumed with trying to give reasons for “How great I am?”

If our significance is found in the list of our own accomplishments or by comparing ourselves to others then we have been infected with this disease

Is there an antidote/cure? Yes! It is taking our eyes off of ourselves, and others, and putting our eyes on Jesus – **who is the Great I AM!**

Jesus Christ is the perfect example of living out God’s will for mankind!

Listen to what God declares about His son Jesus in **Matthew 3:17** - “**This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.**” Why did God declare this?

What did Jesus do to earn this kind of reception from God?

- He held no office, climbed no corporate ladder, didn’t distinguish himself from anyone else, **He simply lived a life of obedience to the will His Father.**

He emptied Himself, took on the form of a servant, humbled Himself – all for the purpose of elevating others & giving them a place at God’s table!

Jesus not only sets us an example of Godly living, He teaches us how to do it & in Luke 9:46-48 He uses a prop. What kind of prop does He use? **A child!**

Jesus says in Luke 9:48 – “**Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.**”

In the midst of an argument over who is the greatest among the disciples Jesus places a child at His side & basically says “What do you think of that?”

Can you see the struggle in the minds of the disciples? “But that’s my place, I deserve that, how can an insignificant child be put in the place of honor at Jesus’ side before me?” Jesus is exposing the disease of “self” within them!

Jesus’ disciples were so consumed with trying to elevate their own status that they were missing out on what being with & following Jesus is all about

**Advancing oneself is the American way, not the way of God’s Kingdom!**

God’s Kingdom is about receiving, serving & advancing others in God’s name

If we are not willing to receive/love/serve/advance someone who is seemingly unimportant, insignificant, & unworthy in the world’s eyes then **we have missed what greatness in the Kingdom of God is all about!**

It’s time to change our score card! Our significance is not found in our own status in this world, but in the way we love others. If we don’t receive the child/outcast/broken like Jesus did then we are living into a different kingdom!

Our greatest accomplishments should not be found in our worldly successes but in how we have served **to advance God’s Kingdom in this world.**

**“For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.” – Vs. 48**  
**Greatness in God’s Kingdom is measured differently!**

We need to keep our eyes on Jesus! He is our example, our strength, our hope for living into the Kingdom of God! Read **Philippians 2:1-11!**

Let’s keep our eyes on Jesus, follow His example, for in that is true greatness!

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