Becoming Small
October 11, 2026 – John Yates Truro Church

Philippians 2:3-11

> [3]Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more
> significant than yourselves. [4]Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but
> also to the interests of others. [5]Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in
> Christ Jesus, [6]who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with
> God a thing to be grasped, [7]but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,
> being born in the likeness of men. [8]And being found in human form, he humbled
> himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
> [9]Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above
> every name, [10]so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on
> earth and under the earth, [11]and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to
> the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 18:1-5

> [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.

Source: www.biblegateway.com

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. John Yates spoke about human greatness.
    a. In what ways does the world measure a person's greatness?
    b. Which of those ways do you tend to fall back on in judging the worth and importance of others?
    c. Which of those ways do you tend to fall back on when determining your own worth and importance?
2. The disciples asked Jesus who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 18:1-5).
    a. How did Jesus respond to the question?
    b. The passage doesn't articulate how one is to "turn and become like a child." What characteristics of a child do you think Jesus may have had in mind?

3. "Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less." What do you think about this quotation? (Note: The source of the quotation is unknown but has been misattributed to C.S. Lewis.)

4. Re-read Philippians 2:5-8. List the ways in which Christ humbled himself.

5. Think about the areas in your own life where you are relatively "big" compared to those around you—that is, where you have the most control, influence, rights, or privileges.

    a. What would it look like for you to let go of being "big"?

    b. How might your letting go impact you?

    c. How might your letting go impact those around you?

6. John said that if we depend on God, over time we become more mature in Christ. Share with someone in your group (or someone else in your life) how you have seen him/her change and grow over the months and years to be more like Christ.

7. Close by giving thanks to God for the maturity you have witnessed in the lives of your group members.

Sermon

Sermon transcript unavailable this week