

Thought for the Week

"Jesus sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else." (Mark 9:35)

As we approach yet another footy finals weekend, we are once again hearing the claims that greatness awaits for all the players. It is there for the taking. All they have to do is reach out and take hold of it. Nathan Cleary, the champion halfback from the Penrith Panthers (who are competing in their fourth straight grand final) even declared his intention to become the greatest player of all time – to become an immortal of the game. As I hear these comments and read about Nathan's ambitious plans I couldn't help but think about how the disciples were focused on the same thing a few thousand years ago. The disciples came to Jesus and asked him, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus' response turned the disciples, and the world's view of greatness upside down. Jesus didn't dismiss greatness as something that shouldn't be pursued, he just revealed how God measures greatness very differently than we do.

We measure greatness in what we accomplish, how we compare with others and who we defeat. We value greatness in the things others can see, in the medals awarded and the accolades offered. We believe greatness comes when we elevate ourselves, but Jesus says greatness comes when we lower ourselves. "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:11) The kingdom of heaven is not like earthly kingdoms. In earthly kingdoms military might, earthly wealth and personal achievement is what counts. It is the ability to overthrow others or outsmart them or to outbid them that matters. The person who asserts himself is the one who gets on. But Jesus' kingdom is quite different. Being in the kingdom does not mean always competing to be noticed and applauded, but engaging in humble, lowly service. True greatness consists not in receiving service but in giving it. It comes not by going high, but by going low. The genuinely humble person is the one that really counts in God's kingdom. While there is very little guarantee of any reward, medal, accolade or hero's parade in humbly serving others, it is the essence of true greatness.

We want to rise above the doldrums of life so we can experience greatness. But Jesus calls on us to define greatness in the same way he defines greatness. In God's kingdom the only way up is to go down. So, as we seek to live for Christ and interact with other people, our primary concern should never be about how can we be greater than others? Our primary concern should always be how can we best serve others? May God help each of us to live in such away. God bless, Pastor John.

Prayer Points

- Pray for all of our ministries starting back again. That the leaders will have been refreshed with the short break over the holidays and pray that they may be able to build strong connections and have gospel opportunities with all of the people they come into contact with
- Pray for our elders (Pastor John, Harrison, John C, David, Greg) – That they would hold God's Word close to their hearts, remain humble, and always seeking the Lord's will.
- Pray for John and Margaret Beaumont as they head back to PNG on 6th October for a month.

What's on?

MONDAY

5PM Walking Soccer

TUESDAY

9:30AM Playgroup

WEDNESDAY

9AM Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

9AM Quilters

FRIDAY

9:30AM Playgroup

4PM Kids Ignite &

Youth



If you would like to know more about our Home Groups, contact Pastor John 0408 402 476

BIRTHDAYS: Dean Pfeffer, 3rd Jill Mathewson

HEAVEN MINI-SERIES

Colin Lituri will be starting his two week series on "What Happens When We Die" and "The New Heaven and New Earth" Today.

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

We are looking to start up a CBBC Men's Ministry and would like to hear what men want. In order to do that we are having a breakfast at the church on Saturday 7th October, starting at 8am. More details soon.

SOS CHANGE OF DATE

The next SOS activity will be a visit to the Majestic Theatre in Pomona on Thursday 19th October. Please make a note in your diaries.

PASTOR'S WEEKEND OFF

John and Shauna are currently away visiting family and to attend a 40th High School reunion. They will be back tomorrow. Please pray for safe travels and a great time with family and friends.

MINISTRIES STARTING UP AGAIN

School starts back up again this week for the final term of the year. Which means that all of our kids and youth ministries also start back up again this coming week (Sunday School starting next Sunday).

LADIES CRAFT MORNING

Saturday 14th October we will be having a 'diamond' craft event for all Ladies. Cost per person will be \$10 including a morning tea and will run 9am-12pm.