

Intro – TODAY WE HEAR ABOUT HOW TO REACH TRUE GREATNESS.

Remember Mohammed Ali? He'd brag "I am the greatest – I am the greatest".

Great boxer, true – but when boxing was over he founded the Mohammed Ali Ctr

- This non-profit has developed programs reaching both children and adults
- It serves all nations, all cultures, all nationalities, all ages & geographic areas
 - In 1998 the UN declared Ali an International Messenger of Peace
 - In 2005 Ali was awarded the US Medal of Freedom
 - not for his boxing – but for his charity work
- In the Gospel JC teaches Apostles that to be the greatest they must be servant of them all
- In Isaiah (500 yrs before JC) the Messiah is described as a Suffering Servant
- What does that mean for us NSJ? How we live together here matters LUP

ISAIAH

I said this was written 500 yrs BC – here Isaiah prophesies about the characteristics of the Messiah – and how God would treat Him. READ IT

- "If he gives his life as an offering for sin ... the will of the Lord will be accomplished through him."
- "Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he will bear."

I said at the beginning we were going to hear about true greatness. Here it is.

What Isaiah prophesies, and what Jesus did, was to live a life dedicated to 'the other'

JC gave his life, it wasn't taken

Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah will freely bear our guilt – take our punishment

"and the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through Him"

Because He loves us – God's will is that we receive mercy and forgiveness

PS 33 "Lord, let your mercy be upon us, as we place our trust in you" READ IT

2nd stanza "The eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear Him, *upon those who hope for His kindness. To deliver them and preserve them*"

In our relationship with God we recognize, in awe, His greatness, not ours

He is the creator, who made us in His image and likeness.

Our hope is in Him, (it better be) and He is willing to deliver us & preserve us.

SO - - -

HEBREWS says that - we have a High Priest who sympathizes with us,

who has been similarly been tested (like us) in every way

so we can approach Him in confidence to receive His mercy READ IT

GOSPEL

- Monk finds a huge jewel and gives it to a beggar
 - "I want something greater"
 - "Give me what made you give me this"
 - For the Monk, giving was easy, serving was a privilege
 - Something James and John needed to learn
 - Jesus calls the Apostles to greatness – that means (Like Ali) its a call to Service
 - A servant is in service to the Master
 - If you want greatness in the Kingdom – then you want to serve the Master
- Jesus says the adventure is not in getting the JEWEL (worldly goals)
Jesus says the adventure is taking the journey with HIM
(Example of Theresa of Calcutta) US TOO