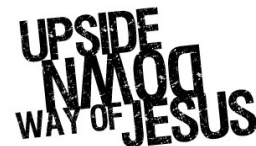


LAST IS FIRST

Select Passages • September 5, 2010 • Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

September 5, 2010.....	“Last is First”
September 12, 2010.....	“Slavery is Freedom”
September 19, 2010.....	“Weak is Strong”
September 26, 2010.....	“Death is Life”
October 3, 2010.....	“Give and Receive”



Matthew 5:43–44 (NLT) ⁴³ “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

John 14:15 (NLT) ¹⁵ “If you love me, obey my commandments.

1 John 2:6 (NLT) ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

Mark 9:33–37 (NLT) ³³ After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, “What were you discussing out on the road?” ³⁴ But they didn’t answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. ³⁵ He 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.” ³⁶ Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me.”

Mark 10:35–45 (NLT) ³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do us a favor.” ³⁶ “What is your request?” he asked. ³⁷ They replied, “When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.” ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You don’t know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?” ³⁹ “Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!” Then Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering. ⁴⁰ But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.” ⁴¹ When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. ⁴² So Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ⁴³ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Luke 22:24–27 (NLT) ²⁴ Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest

Even though some of Jesus’ teachings seem upside down to us and are not always easy to live out, they are always best for us.

Following Jesus’ teachings is one of the ways we communicate our love for Him.

Three Truths:

1) The “last is first” principle and Jesus’ teaching about achieving greatness is _____.

- See Mark 9:33-37, Mark 10:35-45 and Luke 22:24-27
- Also see John 13:1-17 as an example

2) Jesus says _____ should characterize our lives.

- See Mark 9:36, John 3:29-30, Philippians 2:3-11

among them. ²⁵ Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.' ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. ²⁷ Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.

Mark 9:36 (NLT) ³⁶ Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them...

John 3:29-30 (NLT) ²⁹ It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the best man is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. ³⁰ He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

Philippians 2:3-11 (NLT) ³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ 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.

Luke 22:26 (NLT) ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant.

Mark 10:43-45 (NLT) ⁴³ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

3) Jesus says we should become a _____ to others.

- See Luke 22:26 and Mark 10:43-45

Living a life of humility and being a servant might not bring you success and greatness in the world's eyes, but it will bring you great success in the only eyes that really matter.

What do you need to do in response to today's message?

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website:

www.otterbeinchurch.org

Pastor Mike Newman, senior pastor

1) The “last is first” principle and Jesus’ teaching about achieving greatness is counterintuitive for us.

2) Jesus says humility should characterize our lives.

3) Jesus says we should become a servant to others.

Living a life of humility and being a servant might not bring you success and greatness in the world's eyes, but it will bring you great success in the only eyes that really matter.

