

Do you desire to be the G.O.A.T or the Servant?

Introduction to Christian Servitude (Slide 1)

Reading: Luke 22:14-27

I have always thought that the acronym *G.O.A.T.* by removing the periods and using the term backwards, is an accurate description as to how some feel about themselves and how they view others.

(Slide 2) The acronym is short for the *“Greatest of All Time!”* It most often is referring to an outstanding athlete and their ability. In that setting, many athletes are striving for that type of recognition.

However, giving someone that title, deserved and sometimes even undeserved, undermines the contributions of others on the team.

For example, in basketball someone may be considered the GOAT because they are a prolific scorer or they make unbelievable moves or incredible dunks. Now don't get me wrong, I enjoy watching those aspects of the game.

But what about the role player who snags an offensive rebound or gets a steal toward the end of the game that leads to a team victory. What about the one who plays great team defense or handles the ball the majority of the time and has few turnovers. What about the one who makes the great pass to the GOAT! They are not necessarily seeking the same recognition but are concerned about winning the game and helping every individual be the best they can be.

In sports and particularly basketball, the most unheralded individuals are those on the practice squad. They will dress for games but will unlikely see one second of playing time. It is their sacrifice that often makes the GOAT the player he or she has become.

This is a great parallel to the average everyday christian man and woman and it is also what Jesus has taught christians everywhere to strive to become.

Matthew 20:16 (Slide 3)

So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

In our text, a dispute arises between the disciples about who would basically be the *G.O.A.T!* A dispute means that the disciples were verbally arguing about who would be “*top dog*” so to speak.

I find this dispute fascinating and foolish at the same time. First of all, they are in the midst of the *Greatest of All Time* in Jesus the Christ.

Greatest teacher: In Mark He teaches a group of hypocrites a valuable lesson.

Mark 12:13-17 (Slide 4)

13 Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to trap Him in a statement. 14 They came and said to Him, “Teacher, we know that You are truthful and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay a (Slide 5) poll-tax to Caesar, or not? 15 Shall we pay or shall we not pay?” But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, “Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to look at.” 16 They brought one. And He said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” (Slide 6) And they said to Him, “Caesar’s.” 17 And Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were amazed at Him.

The Greatest Sacrifice of All Time:

John 15:13 (Slide 7)

13 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

The Greatest Human Being of All Time:

2 Corinthians 5:21 (Slide 8)

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The Greatest Teacher, Human Being, Example, Servant, Sacrifice, Leader, and Protector of All Time:

1 Peter 2:21-25 (Slide 9)

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; (Slide 10) while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. (Slide 11) 25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

This is the one that they argued in front of as to who would be the greatest, the G.O.A.T. Human nature gave them a narcissistic approach to what they thought was to come. Before the dispute he had spoken of *betrayal* and pronounced a woe upon that individual who would betray the ***“King of Kings!”***

They only temporarily contemplated that revelation. Then they began to be selfish in their ambition despite hearing with their own ears (*often witnessing with their own eyes*) that their leader would give them a demonstration on servitude.

Serving others is in stark contrast to being served.

Mark 10:32-45 (Slide 12)

32 They were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful. And again He took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him, (Slide 13) 33 saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. (Slide 14) 34 They will mock Him and spit on Him, and scourge Him and kill Him, and three days later He will rise again."

35 James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Jesus, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You." (Slide 15) 36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" 37 They said to Him, "Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory." 38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. (Slide 16) Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" 39 They said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism (Slide 17) with which I am baptized. 40 But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

41 Hearing this, the ten began to feel indignant with James and John. (Slide 18) 42 Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. 43 But it is not this way among you, (Slide 19) but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Jesus the Greatest Leader and Servant of All Time!

How many would want to endure what Jesus endured? Especially for strangers, for those who are rebellious, for those who persecuted and condemned Him to die on the cross? For those who nailed him to the cross? The very reason Jesus came to earth was to seek, save and to serve!!

What's the example from our Lord? Great people do what others don't want to do or will not do! They serve!!

Invitation

When the invitation is offered, consider that the one who offers the invitation is the *Greatest of All Time!!* Today if you have heard the Gospel call, we encourage you to respond. By faith, submit to baptism and allow the Lord to add you to His church, that is; those that will be saved.

If you have fallen away or have strayed and you hear this invitation, The *Greatest of All Time* invites you back into the fold. Whatever your desire this day we will assist you and pray with you and for you.

Please let us know how we can help you with your walk with Jesus The Christ!! The *Greatest of All Time!!*

Reading:

Luke 22:14-27

14 When the hour had come, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. 15 And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of

God comes.” 19 And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” 20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. 21 But behold, the hand of the one betraying Me is with Mine on the table. 22 For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!” 23 And they began to discuss among themselves which one of them it might be who was going to do this thing.

24 And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. 25 And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called ‘Benefactors.’ 26 But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. 27 For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

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