

BE THE GREATEST

Matthew 2:20-28

Pastor Ken Ritz * April 1, 2012 * New Life Vineyard Church

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 4:17

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough." Matthew 13:33

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you." Matthew 21:31

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth... Matthew 6:9-10

1. _____ yourself

Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:4 (NIV)

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 1 Timothy 1:15-16

I am the least deserving of all God's people. Ephesians 3:8 (NLT)

The humble attitude:

By myself, I am not an important person, but I have an important job to do.

Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but a person is tested by being praised. Proverbs 27:21 (NLT)

2. _____ others

Then the mother of James and John came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

"What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

Matthew 20:20-21

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:24-28

When you are invited to a wedding feast, don't sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? The host will come and say, "Give this person your seat." Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table! Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, "Friend, we have a better place for you!" Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. Luke 14:8-11(NLT)