

2026-03-29 Points

Title: The Call to Servant Greatness: From Crowing to the Cross

Sermon Summary:

This Palm Sunday sermon contrasts the crowd's praise of Jesus with their later calls for crucifixion, challenging believers to avoid following the crowd and instead know what they believe. The pastor addresses the human tendency toward self-promotion ("crowing") versus Christ's call to humble servanthood. Through multiple Gospel accounts, the message reveals how the disciples repeatedly argued about who would be greatest in the kingdom, while Jesus consistently taught that true greatness comes through becoming last and serving all. The sermon emphasizes the importance of childlike faith, dying to self, and following Christ with resolute commitment. It concludes with Jesus washing the disciples' feet as the ultimate example of servant leadership, preparing the congregation for communion as a time of personal examination and recommitment to serving rather than self-promotion.

Key Points:

- Don't follow the crowd; know what you believe and stand firm in Christ
- God promises to encamp around those who fear Him and deliver them from troubles
- The disciples repeatedly argued about greatness while missing Jesus's teaching on servanthood
- True greatness in God's kingdom comes from becoming last and serving all
- We must become like little children - humble, trusting, and dependent on God
- Believers receive crowns in heaven for conquering sin and serving Christ, not for self-promotion
- The greatest commandment is to love God completely and love your neighbor as yourself
- Following Christ requires denying self, taking up your cross daily, and actually following Him
- We should pray for leaders worldwide and trust God's sovereignty over

nations

- Christianity is growing rapidly in Iran despite persecution, demonstrating God's power
- Jesus set the example of servant leadership by washing His disciples' feet
- We are called to serve others without seeking recognition or credit
- Communion is a time to examine whether we truly follow Christ or merely claim His promises

Scripture Reference:

- Psalm 34:1-10 (taste and see that the Lord is good)
- Matthew 18:1-9 (becoming like children; who is greatest)
- Matthew 22:34-40 (the greatest commandment)
- Mark 9:33-41 (arguing about greatness; welcoming children)
- Luke 9:18-62 (denying self, taking up cross; disciples arguing about greatness)
- John 13:1-17 (Jesus washing the disciples' feet)
- 2 Timothy 2 and 4:1-8 (crown of righteousness for those who long for His appearing)
- Romans 8 (more than conquerors through Christ)

Stories:

- The contrast of Palm Sunday celebration versus the crowd calling for crucifixion five days later
- A church member calling to thank for prayers after cancer remained restricted with no new growth
- A preacher's church praying for Venezuelan pastors imprisoned, who were released within five days
- The growth of Christianity in Iran despite 30,000 deaths, making it the fastest-growing Christian region
- Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abedego's example turning foreign kings' hearts toward God
- Jesus riding into Jerusalem on an unbroken donkey while crowds praised Him
- Jesus calling a little child to stand among the disciples when they argued about greatness
- The disciples trying to stop someone casting out demons in Jesus's name

because "he's not one of us"

- James and John wanting to call down fire on a Samaritan village that rejected Jesus
- Jesus washing His disciples' feet at the Last Supper as the ultimate act of servant leadership
- The Aldi commercial about the mom returning home quicker than expected to find arguing children