

“Destined for Greatness”
Ps Kev—Sunday 6th Feb 2011

[MYREVELATION]

Intro: God has miraculously brought his people out of the slavery of Egypt via the Red Sea. He is now trying to prepare them for their destiny of greatness in the promised land. He is trying to teach them to trust him, he has got them out of Egypt & now he is desperately trying to get Egypt out of the them. The sad part is in the end God gets so sick of all their - whinging that he goes - trip cancelled & that generation was all left to die in the wilderness, and God started again with a new generation!

This is a picture of us God taking us out of the world in salvation & then the journey of him preparing us for heaven by trying to get the world out of us! Us out of world, not world out of US..

We are destined for greatness - but whether or not we get there, that is another story! It's what Jesus referred to when he told the story about some people receiving the word of God but they only have a shallow root system & the things of this world end up enticing them back away from their relationship with God!

God is trying to lead them to greatness but they keep having problem with one thing. “Obedience”

In **Exodus 16** - we find an interesting portion of scripture about how God expected his people to live while they were wandering through the dessert towards the promised land. It was by faith, faith was the process that he would use to keep his people alive for 40years in the wilderness.

Every morning God reigned down Manna or bread from heaven but here is the catch. You had to go out every morning & collect if for yourself & your family, and you could not carry any over to the next day. A simple instruction however once again people did not listen & obey, they tried to collect twice as much & then not worry about turning up the next day. The result was anything that was tried to be carried over, it ended up going rotten & full of maggots. So that was the instruction:

Everyday - go out & collect fresh sustenance for you & your family from God,

- Never try & carry yesterday's manna into today,
- Only exception - was the Sabbath - every 6th day you need to collect twice as much & prepare if for the day of rest.
-

As it is in the natural so it is in the spiritual.

We need daily grace, the scriptures say sufficient for each day is its own trouble. We need to daily receive revelation from the Father from His Word to sustain us for what is to come! It needs to be a daily practice, you see as at midnight tonight today disappears into eternity along with everything attached to it including the Grace - that is why we need to do (Daily Devotions - Journalling)

We must also realize we cannot carry stuff from yesterday into what God is doing today, when you try and carry yesterday's revelation & yesterday's victories into today, things start going very wrong, in fact we start going very wrong.. **Eg** Idolize the good old days! - (God was moving, speaking in tongue everywhere, people were falling over under the power of God, laughing & words of knowledge were happening every week, people were being healed, worshiped for 3 hours - it was awesome! So let me ask you this if it was so good, why did so many people loose their marriage, their kids reject God & now today many of them don't even serve & worship God anywhere in church! The truth is the good old days were not that good, I know I was there! **Eg** Pastor / Words of Knowledge - not being healed! (let go of yesterday)

God is always doing a new thing & we must continually be *that new thing if we wish to become great. I believe God desires to use us to display his greatness through all of us. We just have to understand that looks like.*

Who coined the phrase "I am the Greatest" - Song - was he the greatest of his time? **Eg** Dad shaving / hit bathroom floor.

Thesis: I believe the destiny of greatness awaits us all once we discover the path!

Don't Confuse - Success / Greatness (*Mother Theresa - had*

nothing that one attributes to earthy success, but kings & politicians around the world listened to her voice) - (Martin Luther Kings) Jesus did not even have a place to lay his head, he died with the clothes on his back - not much of a sign of success but he was destined for greatness by providing eternal life for all!

When we think of greatness certain names come to mind like Moses - parting Red Sea, David - killing Goliath, Ruth & Naomi, Rahab & the spies, Elijah -calling down fire on prophets of baal, Peter walking on water & of course Jesus.

I think people are very confused today about greatness especially when it comes to Leadership. So many books have been written about this sought after commodity among the masses. "Leaders" Some of the problem stems from the fact that in order to build a classic leadership roles you mostly have to return to old covenant where God chose certain people to be his spokes people & they were broken into 3 categories:

Prophet - who spoke on God's behalf with that very intimidating "Thus Saith the Lord" - no evidence of this under the new covenant.

- **Priest** - taught the people covenantal life to live in holiness,
- **Kings** - link between God & the people for rule & reign,
-

These are your classic leadership roles - top down, pyramid, patriarchal leadership. And this is what people often think of when they hear about greatness & great leaders!

Enter Jesus - in **Heb 1: 1 -2** *In the Past, when in the past - God spoke to our forefather through the prophets at many times & in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his SON...In past times he use to speak through the old leadership style of the prophet, priest & king. However now talks to people via his Son. His Son through whom the whole world & everything in it finds its origin. Now through Jesus death, burial & resurrection God has provided salvation to all of mankind & now he sits at the right hand of God and his spirit has been sent to this earth to convict the world of sin & righteousness.*

*Jesus is now our Prophet, Priest & King - he is now sitting at the right hand of God & all believers now have the potential to live as kings & priest before the king of kings. Notice only kings & priest not prophets - that is Jesus role! **Eg Eph 4** - Ascension gifts - roles of Apostles , Prophets, Pastors & teacher etc - what is their role to train up the saints to live prophetically from the voice of the great shepherd..*

So you can imagine why

Eg Pharisees & Sadducee's hated him - Jesus was dismantling their whole leadership structure. People no longer had to go through them to get to God but they could go through Jesus himself.

Jesus is implementing a whole new leadership structure, a whole different pathway to greatness. And they hated him WHY - because they were loosing control of the people!

Mark 9:33-37 (NIV)

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "***If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.***" He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." **Eg** Disciples - tried to stop children getting to Jesus? Why, why did they do that? Answer - that had seen the religious leaders in the old system push children away!

If you want to achieve Greatness- here is the pathway...

1. Become the Servant of ALL

Jesus himself said I did not come to be served but to serve & give my life as a ransom for many.

How on earth do you become the servant of all? There is so much need, so much suffering I just don't have enough hours of

the day. So we shy away from it.

Q - if Jesus was called the servant of All - why did he not heal every sick person? why did he not raise every dead person he came across from the dead? why did he only minister to one person waiting by pool & leave everyone else sit in their misery?

Being the servant of all does not mean you help everyone that comes along your path. Being the servant means your available to God the Father to help anyone he as the **Master** chooses for you to engage with. Jesus said I only does what his father tells him to do and friends that the secret to being the servant of All.

2. By being the Servant of the ONE - God the Father.

We must carry within us a humility of heart that makes us available to serve anyone, anywhere & at anytime should the master / Father make the request of us!

Mission - To partner with the Holy Spirit to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ.

Eg - share faith, pray for every sick person - I just try to maintain and ongoing relationship with the Father through the Holy Spirit. I try to simply ask God when I see someone. Is there something you would like me to say to encourage this person, or is there something you want to do, would you like me to pray for this person. If the prompt is not there I move on, cause up the servant of ONE - as the servant of One I am available to be the servant of All..

3. Serving starts with the Household of Faith - the body of Christ!

John 13: 1-17 *It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off*

his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me. "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, *you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*

We will be blessed if we do this NOT if we just know it.

This is where Jesus really modelled for them the new paradigm of Servant Leadership. He takes off his teachers robe & picks up the towel and basin and starts to wash his disciples feet. This would have freaked them out to see Jesus in this light. Jesus is really driving home to them that this new leadership, its not like the old style of leadership which lords it over people, this new leadership starts with simple acts of kindness's and service. The towel & basin are now the pathway to greatness & it is not based on titles of terror.

So how does the towel launch us to greatness?

What is the process?

- You just start serving somewhere with no hidden agendas,
- The group of people start to notice your service, they notice something different about you, **Eg** uneducated & unschooled person but we *can tell they have been with Jesus. They start to see you in a different light.*
- Fruit starts to flow from the area of which you are serving as God puts his finger on your life, peoples hearts start to respond to you.
- You start to stand out from the crowd, you start to look, feel & smell different to the culture of this world. You are beginning to run counter culture.. Kingdom Culture!
-

Studies - Pac Rim Australia (waited along time for God to decide what he wanted to use to develop servant hearted leaders)

Education is good to complement calling, it is never any use to establish calling!

A Leaders Servant Heart & Call is prepared in the wilderness of servanthood!

Moses 40yrs - felt called to save his people, he was 80yrs old before God could finally use him. Moses thought that they leadership he had learned from the world would be accepted by the people of God. He quickly discovered that is not the case. He spent 40yrs learning to be a servant!

• **David** spent 17yrs tending sheep, & then after one great victory he spends 13yrs on the run for his life from the jealous king Saul...

• **Jesus** - 27yrs unknown to all but known to God,

• **Kevin** - 20yrs in Ipswich - - was going there to do God a favour with my gifts & talents, 20yrs later when all of my pride, arrogance & self assurance are all gone. Now God tells me its time for him to do something. "What the"

• Leaders are prepared for greatness as they serve & then suddenly God puts his finger on them & they rise to the surface

seemly out of no-where.

For us to accomplish the Vision & Mission he has given us for the Gold Coast - we need everyone of us to step into greatness by stepping into servanthood. Be the servant of ALL by being the Servant of ONE.

It's time to throw away yesterday's Manna - that area of service which once satisfied you now has to be let go off & thrown away. It is time to stop remembering what was & it's time to start dreaming about what will be! It's time to allow God to do a new thing.

Eg Discovered after 20years of being a Servant & serving in multiple positions.

Each time God asked me to serve in a different area & department it meant going back to the basics of towel & basin. Each time God led me in the same process of taking something that looked like it was dead in the water & slowly seeing God breathe new life into it & then it would flourish and God would tell me to hand it over. It's how I went from UNI Students, Youth Ministry, Young Adults , Pastoral Care, Outreach Coordinator to Creative Arts, Senior Associate Pastor to Senior Pastor.

I would be asked to serve a group of people,

- I would pick up a towel & serve and support them (Fractal Ministry - DCAT)
- After a season of proving myself & earning their trust they realize I am here for the long haul and I truly have their best interest at heart before God,
- They then begin to embrace me as a God appointment, (18months -2yrs)
- Senior Leadership watches what God is doing so they can endorse, celebrate & begin to release and affirm my appointment,

So Many Mistakes - 1 Cor 12:18 - God who arranges to parts of the body how he desires to fulfill his purposes.

Leader - eager to shortcut greatness see a powerful gift operation within a church and he thinks to himself if only I could get that gift in

my church. So they headhunt the guy & bring him into the church. After only a short period of time the leader cant understand why things are not flying the way they did in his other church. They have made a fundamental mistake.

Organ - transplant taking place & if it is not done God's way then you get organ rejection taking place. If that big shot leader thinks that everyone else is here to support his gift & his ministry, and if God's people sense he does not have the humility to pick up the towel & serve. The other parts of the body will literally shut him down till he dies.

You must remember - the reason why he was working so well in his other church is because he had picked up the towel & basin and serve until God elevated him through the people he was loving. His power & gift came through;

- Humility of servanted
- Body acceptance over time
- Leaderships endorsement of God on the move,
- DNA - of that part of the body in which it functioned.
-

How your gift operated in your last church will need to be adjusted by God in order for it to work in Triple C Live, our values & philosophy of ministry, our calling is very different to most, not better just different because of the kind of vision God has called us to. Your ability to take up the towel is what allows the time for the other organs of the body to adjust & accept you are part of the body.

The Pathway to Greatness - is in our ability to start afresh each day as a servant of ALL by being a Servant of ONE.

It's time to let go of the old & start allowing God to build something new,

•

This is they way all leadership should be selected & if more church leaders appointed leaders from out of this process, they would not have half the mess they get with egos out of

control & powerplays for titles.

Do you remember when a few of the boys approached Jesus about sitting on his right & left. Lets read it,

Mark 10:35-40 (NIV)

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but ***to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.***"

Jesus is the head of this Church - no position is mine to give it must be given to those whom God has appointed to it, that is how I lead & I am training up our team to adopt the same approach.

1. Watch those picking up a towel & basin to serve the ONE,
2. Watch how the other organs either accept or reject the position,
3. Look for fruit as a result of their service, do they have the mark on them of being with JESUS! - you can always train & give education but you can manufacture being with Jesus!
4. Once body has embraced the gifts function,
5. Then as leaders we can begin the process endorsing, celebrating & releasing in an appropriate way,

In 2011 - let go of the old previous Manna & allow God to start a new thing - greatness awaits us all if we are willing to go there through the towel & basin as servant of All.

It doesn't matter what you did in your last area / department of service or even what you did in your last church. We all start within every change by picking up a towel & basin in loving service of the saints. Its in the process by which God takes care of organ rejection, making adjustments to the new organ gift coming

in & the other organs who have been around for awhile. A Destiny of Greatness awaits those who are willing to take the journey.

This will not be a one off thing - I have been continually returning to the towel as each assignment is handed me from heaven & that will be true for many of you starting today. LifeChurch - towel & basin, Pacific Rim - Towel in order for God to do something great within us. Don't let another year go by without walking the pathway of greatness!

Be the Servant of All - by being the Servant of ONE - you are available to all humanity but only at the Master's or Father's request for engagement! MISSION - to partner with the Holy Spirit to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ!
Test: You discover how well you are doing at being a servant when someone actually treats you like one!

C'mon church we have mission to do & it involves seeing God's kingdom extended into every aspect of our city & nation!

Lets make our life goal to reach our destiny of greatness & hear those immortal words " Well Done Good & Faithful Servant"

Let's Pray

Know - you have been hanging onto yesterdays Manna & you are ready to let it go (Just stand on your feet - throw it at the altar)