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Lk 9:46-48

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The saying that goes if we want to ascend, we must choose to descend. Looking at the life of Jesus and in the person of Jesus Christ this saying has not done once but repeated many times. So, it has some considerable weight to it. It was the philosophy of life of the very person that has risen head and shoulders above every other personality in the history of mankind.

We have these counter-intuitive, counter-cultural and against common-sense statements of Jesus: Give to receive; to be first, be last; to save your life, you must lose it. And now this: To be great, you must be least. There is a tendency in every human being to receive than to give. This syndrome is called the receiving mode syndrome of a man. As the child is born to this world the society inject this syndrome in every one. When the child celebrates his first birth day the parents celebrate it very solemnly and many people are invited for the same. May be relatives, the neighbors, the friends and so called VIPs. Every one according to their status gives away some gift to the child. So from here the child's heart there created an expectation mentality, an accumulative culture that is to receive by the society. As the year goes on the child expects bigger and more valued gift than the previous years. If it is not happened, the child creates in him/her an aversion mentality, a disappointed personality and a frustrated character which will be very grievous danger for his/her future.

Now as I mentioned, Jesus made this kind of statement repeatedly. It is found most succinctly in Luke 9:48 where he said, "For the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great." But it is actually found in one form or another in seven different places in the Gospels. On six of the occasions He said it on one of the three occasions His disciples disputed among themselves as to who among them was the greatest. And on one occasion, in Matthew 23, it's found among the woes pronounced against the prideful Scribes and Pharisees who in their selfish ambition led Israel to crucify its Messiah. So what we need to create in every child to give than to receive. When a child celebrates his birth day the parents may take him to an orphanage or charitable institutions and through the child when they make some donation to the institutions naturally there create a giving mode in the person of the child. And this kind of giving mode is to be nurtured in every child. As the child grows in himself/herself there evolves an attitude of giving than to receive.

As we have read in the Gospel passage today and celebrating the mission year, Jesus, the master teacher, decides to provide us with a live, object lesson of the kind of person who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. We need to nurture in ourselves a positive

attitude and aptitude for the mission where by the needs of the people to be understood and met with. It is possible only if we have the mind of giving than receiving. Jesus made this telling statement: "Truly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven." The way to real greatness lies in humility. There is no greater honor on earth than being accepted by others as a servant of God and Jesus Christ.

Humility is something that is gained and practiced as we grow in wisdom and grace. Easton's 1897 Bible Dictionary defines humility as a "prominent Christian grace". It is a state of mind well pleasing to God. It preserves the soul in tranquility and makes a man patient under trials. Biblically speaking, humility is the opposite of pride. According to one Thesaurus source, some other antonyms for humility are arrogance, assertiveness, egoism, pretentiousness and self-importance.

What greater honor can a man receive in life than to be received by men as a messenger of God and Christ and to have God and Christ own us, received and welcomed to Him. This honor remains the exclusive preserve and rights of true Christians. They shall be truly great even though they are the least in the world.

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