

Truly Humble, Truly Great

Scripture: Matthew 4:1 – 11 & Philippians 2:1 – 11

As the American Revolution concluded with England's improbable surrender at Yorktown by General Cornwallace, many politicians and military leaders maneuvered to make General Washington a new monarch. Washington's troops had even developed a plan to march on Philadelphia, the place where the Continental Congress was meeting, to demand that General George Washington be made King. Washington went before all his commanders and delivered an emotional speech about how he wanted to go home and how he had no interest in being a king. Washington explained how they fought for the past years against the rule of a king and how freedom and liberty were their goals.

The world watched and wondered if Washington would stick to his ideals of freedom and liberty when absolute power was within his grasp. In fact, England's King George III saw another reality. King George III was convinced that if Washington resisted the power's pull and returned to his Virginia farm, Washington would be the greatest man in the world! King George III knew that the greatness evidenced in resisting the allure to power is a sign of true nobility and significance.

Washington did resist the allure of power and he did become the greatest man in the world and in our nation!

Jesus knew of the temptation of power when he was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. Jesus' third temptation happened on a very high mountain where Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and Satan said to Jesus – *All this I will give to you if you fall down and worship me!* Jesus said – *Away from me Satan for it is written – Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only!* Satan then left Jesus and angels from heaven came and waited on Jesus.

Resisting the allure to power is a true sign of GRACE!

The Apostle Paul knew this same truth and Paul encourages us to follow Christ's humble way. Even though Jesus was in very nature, God; Jesus did not consider equality with God and he never used his power for his advantage. Instead, Jesus surrendered his power and became a servant. Jesus humbled himself by becoming obedient to death. The One who held all power, surrendered every bit of it for the sake of love!

And yet, in the ultimate reversal, God exalted Jesus from a criminal's cross to the highest place, at God's right hand. Jesus, who could have demanded our praises, laid down his life for us. Jesus, who could have forced us to be obedient, went to the cross, a symbol of humiliation, in a breathtaking act that won our worship and devotion.

Jesus humbled himself for us! Jesus was truly GREAT!

Through absolute humility, Jesus demonstrated true greatness and he turned the world upside down! The depth of Jesus' humility is beyond our understanding. Jesus was and is truly humble and truly great.

So on July 4th weekend, we need to remember and honor George Washington for his humility and greatness; and as Christians we are blessed the Jesus Christ was truly humble and truly great for sacrificing so much for us.

During this difficult time in American history, we, as a nation, must humble ourselves to look out for each other by protecting each other by wearing face masks and practicing social distancing. We must unify as a nation to become truly great.

Let us pray:

Thank you, Jesus that in Your most destitute moment You demonstrated true power by being truly humble.

Thank you, God, that Your Son in a time of when many thought was disgraceful being crucified on a cross, Jesus demonstrated true greatness. AMEN.