

## God Greater, Me Less

### **Intro:**

2020 was a year! Things happened that caused things to come out of me that I was disappointed to find were in me!

### **Experienced a renewed realization of my desperate need for God**

Jn 3:30. He must become greater; I must become less.

**STORY** - Fred giving instructions on the boat!

God reminded me this fall of that funny story....

Do you live with a desperation revelation?

Straining to hear God's will, commands, his instructions so you can successfully drive your life under his authority?

You and I don't know what this run requires....we have been a devoted follower of Christ, we have been an active and committed participant in our church family, we have been around God's plans....but God is saying YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN ON THIS RUN BEFORE!!!

**John 3:30 He must become greater; I must become less.....is the most succinct, precise way of God saying**

**HIS THOUGHTS - must become my thoughts**

**HIS VOICE - be the loudest**

**HIS VALUES - drive my decisions**

**HIS IDEAS - inform my behaviors**

**HIS HEART - fuel my perspective**

**HIS PURPOSES - fill my days**

He must become greater and I must become less....and His greatness naturally displaces me...my weakness, my brokenness, my inability

**I CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE IN THE ROOM/ONLINE WHO DOES NOT NATURALLY BECOME LESS - THEREIN LIES THE TENSION, THE NEED FOR ENCOURAGEMENT TONIGHT!!**

Must be intentional

Must always be in focus

Ministry of reconciliation - 3 types (2 Cor. 5:17-19)

**17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **18** All this is from God, **who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

3 reconciliations that salvation brings:

(=restore friendly relations; bringing back to the way it should be)

1. People to God (salvation...point in time & journey)
2. People to people. (Learning to live in harmony, celebrate diversity, champion unity)
- 3. People to the idea of holiness & pure living; living the way Christ intended**

Ephesians 4: 17-24

**17** So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, **that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. **19** Having lost all sensitivity, they have **given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. 20** That, however, is not the way of life you learned **21** when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. **22** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, **to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24** and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

**We must be reconciled to life the way it was created to work...NEVER done, CONTINUAL work**

**How are you doing in the quest of being reconciled to a life of holiness, a life of pure living?**

**Is He becoming GREATER and are you becoming LESS?**

**Most fulfilling**

**Most desirable**

**Most meaningful**

**Most fun, adventurous**

**Most stress free.....way of living!!! PREACH**

**2 practical focuses to encourage you in....use as tools to assess, make changes, see growth! (Pathways)**

- 1. Prioritize His values**
- 2. Amplify His voice**

### **I . Prioritize His values**

- Begins with asking the question....**does my life align with God's values?**
- 4 areas that are pretty interconnected....**calendar/time, relationships, money, habits/routines**....where you are spending and investing in these 4 areas is a very accurate reflection of your values!!!

#### **A. Habits/Routines**

Aristotle wrote: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit"

Researchers at Duke University recently concluded that " habits account for 45% of everyday behaviors"

- 1. Macro goals/micro quotas** - dream big but then be able to balance that with changes in day to day activities; macro goals are the big picture items you wish to someday accomplish; micro quotas are the minimum amount of work you must get done to daily to make that bigger goal a reality
  - Example - reaching....establish friendships with your immediate neighbors and be able to share Christ with them; micro quota could be looking for one opportunity a week to chat, serve them, build relationship
  - Example - stewardship....make better choices with food you eat; micro quota will likely involve meal planning and meal prep to enable those better choices
- 2. Create behavior chains** -take a regular behavior or part of your routine and add another "link in the chain" by adding a new habit attached to that habitual behavior
  - Example - want to memorize more Scripture....when you change your clothes after work everyday you insert the memorization of a weekly verse
  - Example - you want to take in more Bible....you listen to the Bible when you clean up the kitchen after dinner every evening
  - Example - you want to pray more for your spouse....you start to set aside your drive to work everyday to pray for your spouse

## **II. Amplify His voice**

**....have to read the Bible, spend time in prayer & worship, gather with others... walk in the pathways (PRAXIS)**

### **A. Curate what you take in**

- curate means to “select the performers that will be featured”....select the people, voices and influences who you listen to; what you take into your mind and heart
- 24 hour news/social media
- steward of our mental health....we have to process and deal with what we take in...so be very mindful of it!
- social media - block, unfriend, snooze or hide, block

**READ: We live in a world with LOTS of noise/chatter....we must be intentional to turn down the overall volume so that we can turn up our ability to hear God’s voice**

### **B. Deal with your “stuff”**

- Get counseling if you need it....for those things that continue to come back up in your closest relationships!!

**READ: If we don’t “deal with our stuff”, when things happen our brokenness/flesh/history/woundedness becomes the place that we operate out of and God’s voice and perspective is much harder to hear, more easily muffled and pushed to the back**

**By doing the work, we amplify God’s voice....because we turn down the volume of our brokenness that we bring into situations;**

My example

**READ: By doing months of work, I began to experience an amplification of God’s voice....an ability for me to hear God’s voice and see certain situations differently...I was able to respond in a more Christ like manner rather than from the brokenness that had been instructing me...I believe I broke the cycle! Gained healing! Gained freedom!**

**Closing:**

**HE MUST BECOME GREATER! I MUST BECOME LESS!**

**How are you doing in the quest of being reconciled to a life of holiness, a life of pure living?**

**Is He becoming GREATER and are you becoming LESS?**

- 1. Am I prioritizing His values in all of the different areas of my life?**
- 2. Am I amplifying His voice....by turning down the volume of my own voice in so many practical ways!**