

## The Least

There is a theme in the world that there's no second place...only first. You must always be the best, wealthiest, strongest, and all of the other "ests". But what about those who are second, third, or last place? Where do the ones who have not reached perfection, the ones that aren't on the podium taking pictures with their gold medals. How do the rest of us fit into life's big picture and what, if anything, does the bible say about it? Is there any guidance for us all? As always, there is a word in the Word.

Question 1: Who is "the least"? Who is in need? Who doesn't have it all or doesn't have it all together?

- Financially poor, spiritually poor, needy, oppressed, depressed, failures, outcasts.
- The Apostle Paul described himself as "the least" of all of the disciples. 1 Corinthians 15:9
- Apostle Peter's response to Christ when he told him to lay his net on the other side of the boat was, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Luke 5:8
- Christ places himself in the position of the least:
  - Washing His disciples' feet: John 13:1-17.
  - Allowing Himself to be abandoned by people and to be crucified. Peter, his "ride or die" roady, denied Him and left him. Matthew 26:69-75.

Question 2: Is there help for the least folks?

- Beatitudes:
  - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God. Matt. 5:3
  - Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Matt. 5:4
  - Blessed are the gentle (meek), for they shall inherit the earth. Matt. 5:5
- God sees and cares:
  - David says in Psalm 56:8 "You have taken account of my wanderings; put my tears in Your bottle."
  - Psalm 9:18 says, "For the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted perish forever."
  - Christ states that after he is gone He will send the Spirit whom He calls the Comforter,
    - "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26 (KJV)

Question 3: What can we do?

- Two-sided coin: Sometimes it is us that are least and need to be attended, but at other times it is important to remember that we must always be aware and help others who find themselves in a position of hurt and need.
- Matthew 25:31-46 There are eternal effects (ramifications) of our actions taken now and how we treat the ones that have been overlooked.

Conclusion: If you are a believer in Christ and have accepted Christ as your personal savior, you can be assured that, even in your most hurting times, you are not alone. God sees and cares. We

are to be imitators of Christ. We must look to help those who are in need, understanding that we are being a blessing Christ Himself when we bless the least of those among us.