

Ranking high in the kingdom of Heaven

1/31/21

The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

Revelation 14:1-5 144,000 on Mt Zion

In (Rev.14:1-5), we see a group of individuals on the summit of Mount Zion in heaven, positioned right beside the Lamb. The highest ranking in the Kingdom of heaven. These are a very special numbered group. 144,000.

When you compare this with Revelation chapter 7:9-10, we see a multitude that cannot be numbered, out of every nation. Millions and millions.

But here we see a very special numbered Group who are without spot before the throne, in whose mouth there is no deceit. Without fault.

We are not talking about competing with each other. We are looking at qualities that cause people to rank high for all eternity. To be close to God.

Jesus taught us, if you want to be great in Gods kingdom, learn to be the servant of all. He who humbles himself shall be exalted, but the proud shall be brought low.

So, these individuals here on Mt. Zion in heaven... We should study their characteristics and seek to have these same virtues worked out in our lives in order to win Christ and be very close to Him for all eternity.

Matthew 5:19, makes it very clear that some are great in the kingdom of heaven, and some are the least in the kingdom of heaven. How we live our lives here on earth, will determine our position in eternity, in heaven.

5:19* Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Here Jesus is directing this especially toward leaders. To let down God's standards, and to teach others is to cause people to come short of Christian maturity, and being conformed to the image of Christ.

Let's read Revelation 14:1-5:

“And I looked, and, behold [the Lamb} stood on Mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four [living creatures}, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no [deceit]: for they are without fault before the throne of God.”
Revelation 14:1-5, KJV.

These are the issues we should pursue in life. Those in this group on Zion's hill *excel* in the following:

Qualities to pursue

- **C**onformed to His Image - Christ is closest to those who are like Him and compatible to Him. And Rom. 8:29
- **V**ery close to him. Intimacy of relationship with Christ / to know Him. This is the high calling of God (Phil. 3:10-14). • A better resurrection (Heb.11:35), not always “accepting deliverance” or the easiest way.
- **P**erfection - without fault, perfected in faith, love, and character. Rev.14:5, Heb.12:22,23

- **Purity of heart - These see God and “see as He sees”. Mt. 5:8 Pure motives. No jealousy.**
- **• Seeing His face. Forever gazing upon Him and being transformed even more into His image.**
- **Humility - therefore God has highly exalted them. Mk.10:43,44, Phil. 2:5-9**
- **Dependency - He is nigh unto those of a broken spirit. Mt. 5:3, Isa. 57:15, Mk. 7:25-29**
- **Lamb nature - having the essence of meekness just like the Lamb of God. No vengeance.**
- **Moral purity . Rev.14:4 Impurity brings spiritual darkness, dullness and evil into the heart.**
- **A clean tongue. Rev.14:5 The tongue reveals the heart. James 3:2**
- **No deceit, nothing distorted. • These have the greatest fear of the Lord which kept them clean. Psalm 19, Jer. 32:40; Neh.7:2**
- **• These had the greatest amount of vision. It kept them pressing toward a defined mark.**
- **These are the wisest people in history. They chose to invest in eternity, not earthly things.**
- **These did not change God's Word to accommodate the flesh. Mt. 5:19 Honest, firm, but kind.**
- **• These have the most grace, receiving grace for the greatest pressures in life. Heb. 4:16 did not harden their hearts**
- **These have the finest fruit of the Spirit developed in their lives. They are just like Christ.**

- • These have the most joy, peace, love. Fruits of a fully committed life to Christ.
- • These have the most light; they dwell the closest with Him who is Light. Were searched out with His light.
- • These love the praise of God more than the praise of man. Overcame Adam's greatest weakness.
- • These are the most “dead to self” Not self-willed. Heb.10:7 as the Captain of their Salvation. Not my will, but thine be done.
- • These overcame by the word of their testimony, and loved not their lives unto the death.

The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven - Review

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Most Meek – These have become “lambs” and are positioned next to the Lamb.

Most Light – Dwelling with Him who is the Light, and thoroughly searched with his Light.

Most Wisdom – Investing in eternity, building in the invisible, making wise choices.

Most Vision – This kept them pressing toward a defined mark. Others dwell carelessly.

Most Holy Fear – This holy fear is cleansing and makes one afraid of coming short of God's mark. Psa.19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean,

Most Humble – Therefore God has highly exalted them. Phil. 2:5-9, Mk. 10:43,44

Most Dependent – He is nigh unto those of a broken spirit. Isa. 57:15, Mt. 5:3, Mk. 7:25-29

Most Grace – which is given in time of need. Willing to receive grace and not harden the heart.

Most Pure – Morally, In Motives, In Speech. Rev.14:4,5 Jas.3:2 The tongue reveals the heart.

Most Holy – All the inner paths of the heart belonging wholly to the Lord. No idols or other loves.

Most Faithful to Duty – “Following the Lamb wherever He goes” Rev. 14:4.

Most Conformed to His Image – Totally compatible with Christ. A totally surrendered mind.

Most Fruit of the Spirit – Having all his virtues. Willing to go through the necessary processes.

Most Unselfish – Love of God perfected in them. I Cor. 13.

Most Dead to Self – “Not my will but thine be done”. “Delighting to do His will” . No self-will

Most Faithful to Others – “Not breaking the least commandments and teaching men so” Mt.5:19

Most Near to Christ / seeing His face – Forever gazing upon His beauty and being transformed.

Most Excellent Resurrection – This is the mark, the goal, and the prize. To win Christ, have a superior resurrection and be as close to Christ as possible for all eternity. Phil. 3:10-14. To know Him is life eternal. Jn. 17:3 This is a capsule of the message of Zion – to be where He is.