

Chaplain Reflection – September 8-14, 2025

Chaplain Jeremy Eubanks

Our culture has an obsession with ranking things. We have arguments about GOAT's (greatest of all time) especially with sports. We have top 5 lists for everything imaginable.

There is actually a podcast called "Ranked: Top 5 Lists of Stuff That Don't Matter." It has over 190 episodes, the shortest of which is right at an hour and a half. This group argues and debates to come to a top 5 list of everything from Top 5 Baked treats to Top 5 Fictional Swords – that one is an hour and 57 minutes long! I didn't listen to it, just saw the time stamp.

The ranking obsession really doesn't stop at silly things. Sometimes it seeps into how we view ourselves as parents, or co-workers, or even how we view ourselves morally or as a Christ follower. We may not go as far as a top 5 list on those things, but we tend to look around and believe that there are people that are doing what we do, much better than we do it. And when we see that, we can think less of ourselves.

Or we sometimes, we may not like to admit this, we look around and see people we are pretty sure we are doing it better than, and we feel better about ourselves. It's not a super healthy way to live.

Sometimes we rank people or professions spiritually. We elevate the "professional Christians," and we might think things like police work are not spiritually important. But we need to understand that there is no sacred/spiritual divide. And the way Jesus explained it, greatness is not about position, but about service.

To make that point, in Mark 9:35, Jesus said, "Anyone who wants to be first, must be the very last, and the servant of all..."

Jesus' paradox is that to be first-you must be last. To be great, you have to be small.

The work that you do is noble work. The service you gladly give is sacred and is seen by God. When it feels like you are at the end of the line, know that's where greatness starts. And the one that said that, promises that it matters to Him.

I'm thankful for you and your service to our community. I want you to know that there is a team of chaplains that are holding you in prayer and want to encourage and support you. If you ever need to contact us, maybe just for a confidential prayer. You can call or text **816-726-7729**

That number is manned by the chaplain on call – and when it comes to our phones, it comes from the number I just posted, so we don't have your number unless you want to give it to us.

May you be filled with peace as you fulfill your divine calling.

Chaplain Jeremy Eubanks 6941