

Papapostolou, JennySacred Smallness

7. God's View of Success

The chapter contrasts the world's definition of success (money, fame, platform, recognition) with God's. In the Kingdom, success is a faithful, humble, obedient heart — not visible influence. The author uses personal confessions and Jesus' teaching to argue that our motive, not our reach, is what God measures.

Key takeaways

- The Kingdom runs backwards from the world: first is last, servant is leader, least is greatest. Flesh and Spirit are always at war (Galatians 5:17).
- A platform is not wrong and can be beautiful, but it is not what defines success. Heart posture does.
- The real motive test: Why am I doing this? And how do I react when someone else gets the credit and my work goes unseen? Our flesh craves recognition.
- The author confesses feeling entitled to acknowledgment at a conference — his whole mood swung on whether he was noticed. That craving is pride.

- Good deeds done secretly earn heaven's reward; deeds done for applause have already been paid in full (Matthew 6:1-4). Weigh social-media posting against this — the line is the heart's motive, not the platform.
- Success is saying yes to whatever God puts in your hand and being faithful with it — like the servants with talents and the boy with five loaves. Comparison and fear make us bury our gift.
- The master praised the two-talent servant the same as the five-talent one. What mattered was faithfulness with what was entrusted, not the amount.
- The validation of man is a false comfort. Identity is rooted in being a child of God; live for His approval, not people's (Galatians 1:10).

Passages worth keeping

“The reach of a ministry platform does not define a person's success in the eyes of God; it is their heart posture.”

The chapter's central redefinition of success.

“In those moments of being overlooked by man, I realize I have just qualified myself for being seen by God and receiving His heavenly reward.”

Reframes being unnoticed as gain, not loss.

How it connects

The tension with Matthew 5:16 ('let your good deeds shine') and Matthew 6 ('give in secret') is resolved not by a rule but by examining motive — the thread running through the whole chapter.

Scripture referenced

- **Galatians 5:17** -- Flesh and Spirit in conflict; the two kingdoms clash.
- **Galatians 1:10** -- Pleasing God vs. pleasing people — the servant test.
- **Matthew 20:25-28** -- Greatness is servanthood; the Son of Man came to serve.
- **Matthew 6:1-4** -- Give in secret; public praise is the whole reward.
- **Matthew 25:14-30** -- Parable of the talents — faithfulness over amount.
- **Matthew 5:3-12** -- The Beatitudes as the true picture of the blessed, successful life.