

GREATER

**“I AM NOT THE MESSIAH... HE MUST
BECOME GREATER;
I MUST BECOME LESS.”**

When the ministry of John the Baptist had reached its culmination, he said of Jesus, **“He must become greater; I must become less.”** John had faithfully completed the work of preparing the way for God’s Messiah. He had experienced the unimaginable joy of welcoming Jesus to “center stage,” and it was now time for John to step back from what had been the great work of his life.

And it’s in this humble movement modeled by John that we see a pattern established for what happens when we welcome Jesus into our own lives. The Apostle Paul declares that **“In Christ, we are a new creation! The old has gone, the new is here.”** What better way to understand the change God desires to bring into our lives than these simple words.

**JESUS, YOU MUST NOW
BECOME GREATER.**

In every area of our life - every dream, every desire, every aspiration - welcoming Jesus means surrendering everything that had come before.



When Jesus is welcomed, the incredible surprise is that in our willingness to be emptied, we find what it means to be full. When we choose to hold on to nothing, we receive everything or in the words of Jesus, **“when we are willing to lose our lives, we find life.”**

Living under the lordship of Jesus is a constant call to surrender, but it is also an invitation to a life of endless praise. We ground ourselves in the conviction that **“every good and perfect gift comes from above.”** Grace fuels every part of our daily living and our living is guided by our conviction that sharing grace abundantly is the pathway to the abundant life that Jesus promises.



In the weeks ahead as we consider how **“He might become greater,”** our invitation is to seek God’s leading in how we might faithfully invest the abundance God has provided us to the great ministry that we share of **making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ who love God, love others and serve the world.**

David

Pastor David

ANNUAL GIFTS

The life and ministry of First Methodist Mansfield is enabled by thousands who graciously sacrifice to support our shared work together. The primary way the ministry of First Methodist Mansfield happens is through our tithes, or 10% of our income. We invite you to prayerfully consider how God is asking you to share your resources. You can share your estimate of giving in one of three ways:

- 1) Make your annual estimate online today at fmcm.org/generosity
- 2) Return your giving card by mail in the enclosed envelope.
- 3) Return your card in worship on the weekend of March 1st and 2nd.

IRA DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

If you are interested in giving from the mandatory distribution* from your IRA account, you may note that on the enclosed commitment card.

LEGACY GIFTS

If you are interested in investing in the next generation by establishing First Methodist Mansfield as a beneficiary in your will and estate planning, please note that on the enclosed Commitment Card and a member of our staff will contact you.



*(Required minimum distributions are minimum amounts U.S tax law requires those 72 and older to withdraw annually from traditional IRAs and employer-sponsored retirement plans.)