

A Great Man

God instills in heart of every man and woman a desire to be great.

What do we mean?

- Large in size
- Huge number or measurement
- High in degrees
- Effective
- Eminent or distinguished above others.
- Older in age
- Superior in quality and/or character
- Superior in skills

Great man?

- Great in Possessions
- Great in Doing
- Great in Ideas
- Great in Position
- Great in Character

Great from man's point of view

Great from God's point of view.

Arba: Joshua 14:15 Greatness in size and physical power

Abner: 2 Samuel 3:38 Greatness in position of leadership

Barzillai 2 Samuel 19:32 Greatness in servanthood

Naaman, 2 Kings 5:1 Greatness in fighting ability:

Isaiah 2:9 These seemingly great men have been humbled by God

Daniel: Daniel 2:48 Greatness in position of leadership.

Micah 7:3 Greatness = the abusive leader

The road to greatness, from man's point of view, is often paved with the stones of heart ache, abuse, lying, deceit, greed and brokenness.

On Greatness from God's point of view

1. Result of Servanthood.
2. Contrary to man's point of view.
3. Doesn't come by seeking it

Illustrations of Greatness in the Bible

Daniel. Dan 1:8 Gave himself to purity and prayer.
God gave him a platform of leadership in political realm.

Joshua: Great leader and warrior.
Faithful servant to Moses for over 40 years.
Gave himself to meditation of God's Word. Josh 1:8

Noah: Built ark and rescued himself and family from flood.
Achieved greatness by being servant of God for 120 years.
Obedied God and stood alone.

David: Chosen for leadership because had proven leadership ability by being good shepherd of sheep and good son...obeying father.

Moses: Great deliverer of Israel
Chose to be identified with people of God ...rather than to enjoy pleasures of sin for season.

Joseph: Great political ruler.
Serving his father
Serving in prison after being falsely accused

Abraham: Friend of God.
Father of Israel.
Faithfulness to God and Word.
Obedied God when asked to sacrifice son.

Aquila and Priscilla: Great workers for Lord in early church.
Willing to lay lives down for church and Lord.
Hospitality.
Greatness is achieved by obedience to the Word.

Disciples: Who is the greatest?
Mark 9:34-35
Luke 9:46-48...for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.

What makes a great man?
Matthew 5:19 ... whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 23:11-12 "He that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Jesus illustrate--washing disciples' feet.

John 13:15 ...I have given you an example...

Big dog gang

Luke 22:24-27

Don't matter if servant of God: Money, Time, Effort, Peoples' opinions of your efforts

Characteristics of bond-slave:

- He has no personal rights or freedom
- He is totally under the control of his master.
- His attitude is that of absolute obedience and loyalty to his master
- His job is to make his master look good...a success.
- He is honored, not for who he is but for the one he serves!

Great leader? *The essence of leadership is Servanthood!*

Servant of Lord

Yielded personal rights to God.

No selfish ambitions.

Knows people take advantage of him

Knows people not consider personal feelings.

1 Cor 9:19 2 Cor 4:5 Gal 1:10 Phil 2:7

So what?

Reach full potential for Christ?

Greatness from God's point of view

1. Result of Servanthood.
2. Contrary to man's point of view.
3. Doesn't come by seeking it.

IBLP, Character Sketches, Vol II, p 9: *Greatness is not a goal to be sought after but a by-product of leaning how to serve. ...*

IBLP, Character Sketches, Vol II, p 9: *In order to achieve true greatness, we must first discard our own ideas of what it is.*

Being great man means being servant/bond slave of Jesus Christ.

- Yield personal rights to God.
- No selfish ambitions.
- Attitude -- absolute obedience and loyalty to master
- Commitment to glorify God.
- Honored, not for who he is but for one he serves!