

## The GOAT

If you are familiar with sports, you may have heard the phrase "greatest of all time." These are individuals, usually in sports, who have proven to be better than others in their performance as players. They are the kind of players that other players look up to and want to become more like. They learn from them and try to copy their skills.

**Relating that to Christianity:** We know that Jesus was and is the greatest of all time. He was God in the flesh. He is the Alpha and the Omega! He is who he is!

1. He was and is the greatest at **loving the Father** (God)
2. He was and is the greatest at **loving others** (the world) (us)
3. He was and is the greatest at **serving**
4. He was and is the greatest at **doing good** (making a positive impact both physically and spiritually in people's lives)

**Matthew 18: 1 - 4** Jesus' disciples asked him, who then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. It is curious because Jesus could have pointed to himself. Instead, he used the example of a child. A child with true love, humility, trust, and compassion, willing to listen and follow.

**Jesus made a statement about who is the greatest after Zebedee's mother asked if her sons (James & John) could sit on His right and left**

**Matthew 20: 26 - 28** Jesus explains it this way: **whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.** What a contrast and a great way to put it! To be the greatest you have to be the least.

**Galatians 6: 3 - 4**

Becoming more like Jesus means that we are looking to him. We are not comparing ourselves with others.

**2 Corinthians 3: 10 - 18** (referring to the old law of Moses in comparison to Jesus)

We compare ourselves with Jesus, not each other, not to the old law, not to the world.

### **Making it personal:**

#### **Matthew 22:37**

I want to be the Greatest at **loving God** just like Jesus

#### **Matthew 22:39/1 John 4: 7 - 12**

I want to be the Greatest at **loving others** just like Jesus

#### **John 13: 12 - 17**

I want to be the Greatest at **serving others** just like Jesus

#### **1 Peter 3: 8 - 17**

I want to be the Greatest at **doing good** just like Jesus

### **Book References:**

(**The Greatest Need Of The World by Henry Drummond - The Perfected Life**) [Scottish evangelist, biologist](#), writer, and lecturer who lived in the mid to late 1800's. I would also like to recommend another book he wrote, **The Greatest Thing In The World**. These are both great reads!

(**Finding God's Life For My Will by Mike Donehey of Tenth Avenue North**). In chapter 4 Mike talks about being the greatest of all time. He references Michael Jordan, and Tom Brady, and how their self-worth was wrapped up in their sport. Once it was over they wondered, is this all there is? If our self-worth is wrapped up in **loving God, loving and serving others**, and **doing good**. There ain't no better place to be! Pardon my

English. Mike talks in detail about the difference between being a leader and a servant.

**To spur** (encourage) Hebrews 10: **24** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **25** not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### **Reciprocation Of Loving God, Loving and Serving Others, and Doing Good**

**Luke 6: 37 - 38** **37** “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. **38** Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

**John 13 16** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Abraham Lincoln was quoted as saying: When I do good I feel good

**Where to start:** Paraphrase from the Arnold Schwarzenegger video I watched: I carry my profession wherever I go. It is good to recognize that God has given us a ministry with those closest to us. A common mistake in Christian ministry is to serve in a certain capacity in the church while neglecting to be a servant to our immediate family.

We can serve our spouses, children, neighbors and friends, moms, dads, boyfriend, girlfriend, even a stranger. It is wonderful because we take this ministry wherever we go! We can make touches along the way. Loving, serving, and doing good isn't just about an organized church thing.

**A picture of redemption** that Jesus would provide was illustrated in the book of Leviticus as a goat (two goats to be exact). This was before the cross and both goats represented Jesus.

Goat # 1- The sacrifice. Just like Jesus provided his life for our sins. In the goat's case, it could not be risen. It was just an illustration. Jesus had to come in the flesh.

Goat # 2- Scapegoat that bore the sins of the Israelite community and was still out there alive. This is before the cross and illustrates that there was still the need for Jesus to come and complete his sacrifice on the cross. (When he gives up his spirit Jesus states, "It is finished." Wow! What a huge deal! Jesus put on himself the sins of the world and provided forgiveness through his sacrifice on the cross! Those who were physically here before him and those of us who would come into this world after the cross. Praise God!

**1 Peter 2:24**

**Prayer**