

THE PRINCIPLE OF GREATNESS

Jesus Christ is the greatest person that ever lived and is an expert in all phases of life. He revealed to his disciples what makes a person great based on God's kingdom values, which are contrary to this world system.

- 'Whoever **practices and teaches** these commands will be called **great** in the kingdom of heaven.' - Matthew 5:19b (Jesus referred to the Sermon on the Mount teachings)
- 'Whoever **humbles himself like this child is the greatest** in the kingdom of heaven.' Matthew 18:4.

The kings of the Gentiles lorded themselves over their populous, but Jesus proclaimed:

- 'You are not to be like that. Instead, the **greatest** among you should be like the youngest and the one who rules like the one who **serves**.' - Luke 22:26

Jesus was a **servant-king** who washed his disciples feet - John 13:14-17. How unlike this are self-absorbed Kings, Presidents, Prime Ministers, politicians and dictators, that instead of serving the people, they take advantage of them.. They shower luxury and privileges upon themselves at the expense of the people they are meant to serve. In their pride they, exalt themselves with their titles, honors and riches. Pastors are not immune from this. Instead of feeding the sheep, they fleece them and feed off of them.

'Son of Man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: This is what The Sovereign Lord says: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who **only take care of themselves!** Should you not take care of the flock! You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice of animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. **You have ruled them harshly and brutally.** So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and then they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.

- Ezekiel 34:2-6 NIV

As you read through the Bible you will see examples of many kings that were proud and self-serving. They had their days of fame and fortune, but now they are irrelevant relics in the dustbins of history. However, there are many persons who made an impact through service.

- **Mother Theresa** / served the poor in Calcutta; **Hudson Taylor** / Missionary to China
- **David Brainerd** / gave his life for the American Indians
- **E. Stanley Jones** / missionary to India and the whole world for 60 years
- **Apostle Paul** / sacrificed all to bring the gospel to the whole world - 1 Cor.9:19-27
- **David Livingstone** / gave his life to reach Africa for Christ
- **Albert Schweitzer** / Scientist, musician, philosopher, theologian. Left the road to greatness in Germany and went to Africa to work among the primitive, under-privileged In a little village and established a hospital to help the sick and oppressed.
- **Jesus Christ** / came to earth not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. He emptied himself - Matthew 20:28. Philipians 2:5-11
In our King of Kings section; jesusreigns.net you will find more about his greatness.

We grow small trying to be great.

He is not great who has the greatest number of servants, but he who serves the greatest number.

True greatness is not found in success but in humility and service.

- E. Stanley Jones

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