

Title: Greatness according to Jesus
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Word

Introduction

1. What is greatness?
2. How does the world define greatness?
3. How do you define greatness?
4. Is it godly to desire greatness?

Who is the greatest?

Matthew 18:1-2

¹ At that time the disciples came up and asked Jesus, Who then is [really] the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? ² And He called a little child to Himself and put him in the midst of them,

1. Those who embrace change

Matthew 18:3

³ And said, Truly I say to you, unless you repent (change, turn about) and become like little children [trusting, lowly, loving, forgiving], you can never enter the kingdom of heaven [at all].

2. Those who become childlike

Matthew 18:4

⁴ Whoever will humble himself therefore and become like this little child [trusting, lowly, loving, forgiving] is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

- Children are humble
- Children are innocent/pure

Innocent in evil

1 Corinthians 14:20

Brethren, do not be children [immature] in your thinking; continue to be babes in [matters of] evil, but in your minds be mature [men].

- Children are free
- Children forgive (and forget)
- Children love sincerely
- Children have joy





- Children trust easily
- Children desire to learn/grow

A desire to grow

1 Peter 2:1-2

¹ Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

- Children inherit kingdom

A kingdom inheritance

Matthew 19:14

But Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children."

3. Those who reflect Christ

Matthew 18:5

⁵ And whoever receives and accepts and welcomes one little child like this for My sake and in My name receives and accepts and welcomes Me.

Children of God forever

Romans 8:16-17

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs —heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Conclusion

1. Greatness requires embracing change, becoming like children, and reflecting Christ.
2. In what area do you need to humble yourself?
3. Only Jesus Christ can make the change in you.