

Being Great
"What Jesus Said" sermon series
Mark 10:35-45
Philippians 2:3-13

1. Share the names of people who have exhibited greatness in some way to you? . . . people who have profoundly influenced your life?
 - a. Both people you know, and people you 'know about'
 - b. In family. In school. At work. In our nation/world?
 - c. In the secular world?
 - d. In the Christian faith?
2. In what ways did they influence you?
 - a. List the traits in particular characterized them
 - b. Would you describe them in any sense as "saints"?
 - c. In what sense, if any, were they leaders or servants or servant leaders?

Read Mark 10:35-45, Philippians 2:3-13

3. Does what Jesus says -- have to do with just
 - a. some areas of life? or with all areas of life?
 - b. the private life? or does it translate into public life?
 - c. who I want to be? or does it extend to who we want our leaders to be?
4. Does what Jesus says make sense to us? Are there problems we have with what he says? All of what he says? Some of what he says?
5. Describe the example of Jesus set out for us in Philippians 2?
 - a. What pressures or obstacles do we face in heeding Jesus' call or following his example to be a servant or a slave?
 - b. Personally? At work or in society?
 - c. What help do we need to make progress?

ARTICLES

In the following pieces -- where does servant leadership fit in?

Marshall Goldsmith, What Got You Here Won't Get You There, 2007

1. Winning too much: *The need to win at all costs and in all situations - when it matters, when it doesn't, and when it's totally beside the point.*
2. Adding too much value: *The desire to add our two cents to every discussion.*
3. Passing judgment: *The need to rate others.*
4. Making destructive comments: *Making needless sarcastic and cutting remarks*
5. The overuse of negative qualifiers which secretly say to everyone, "I'm right. You're wrong."
6. Telling the world how smart we are
7. Speaking when angry: *Using emotional volatility as a management tool.*
8. The need to share our negative thoughts, even when we aren't asked.
9. Withholding information: to gain or maintain an advantage over others.
10. Failing to give proper recognition
11. Claiming credit that we don't deserve
12. Making excuses for our annoying behavior so people excuse us for it.
13. The need to deflect blame away from ourselves and onto events and people
14. Playing favorites
15. Refusing to express regret and admit we're wrong
16. Not listening
17. Failing to express gratitude
18. Punishing the messenger
19. Passing the buck
20. An excessive need to be "me"

JOHN CALVIN (commentary on Matthew 5:5)

When Christ promises to the meek the inheritance of the earth, we might think it exceedingly foolish. *Is it not* those whose hand is ever ready to revenge injuries, who are rather the persons who claim for themselves the dominion of the earth? For the children of God, on the other hand, I answer, that though they may not plant their foot on what is their own, they enjoy a quiet residence on the earth . . . for they know that the earth which they inhabit, has been granted to them by God.

The Moral Bucket List. **DAVID BROOKS** NYT, APRIL 11, 2015

ABOUT once a month I run across a person who radiates an inner light. These people can be in any walk of life. They seem deeply good. They listen well. They make you feel funny and valued. You often catch them looking after other people and as they do so their laugh is musical and their manner is infused with gratitude. They are not thinking about what wonderful work they are doing. They are not thinking about themselves at all.

When I meet such a person it brightens my whole day. But I confess I often have a sadder thought: It occurs to me that I've achieved a decent level of career success, but I have not achieved that. I have not achieved that generosity of spirit, or that depth of character.

A few years ago I realized that I wanted to be a bit more like those people. I realized that if I wanted to do that I was going to have to work harder to save my own soul. I was going to have to have the sort of moral adventures that produce that kind of goodness. I was going to have to be better at balancing my life.

It occurred to me that there were two sets of virtues, the résumé virtues and the eulogy virtues. The résumé virtues are the skills you bring to the marketplace.

The eulogy virtues are the ones that are talked about at your funeral — whether you were kind, brave, honest or faithful. Were you capable of deep love?

We all know that the eulogy virtues are more important than the résumé ones.

But our culture and our educational systems spend more time teaching the skills and strategies you need for career success than the qualities you need to radiate that sort of inner light. Many of us are clearer on how to build an external career than on how to build inner character.

JIM COLLINS *Good to Great*, discovered that leaders who seemed to be generally MEEK were often powerful and effective. He studied leaders of 11 corps that exceeded stock market growth by at least 3 times for 15 straight years — What he discovered was that NONE OF THESE LEADERS ever wanted to become larger than life heroes. They never aspired to be put on a pedestal or become unreachable icons.

During interviews with the good to great leaders, *“they'd talk about the company and the contributions of other executives as long as we'd like, but would deflect discussion about their own contributions.* When pressed to talk about themselves, they'd say things like, “I hope I'm not sounding like a big shot.” This was not just false modesty — when Collins' team interviewed other people to say what they thought about these top executives, they said exactly the same thing . . .