

# The Greatness Of Jesus

- I. What is Greatness? Who is a great man? What is the distinctive Characteristic that makes one great?

**These are the three questions we will seek to answer in this study.**

## A. What Is Greatness?

- Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines "Greatness" this way: "Expressing a large, extensive or unusual degree of anything."**
- In the Old Testament the main word used is "*gadal*" which means "*to become strong, grow up, be great or wealthy, evidence oneself as great (magnified), be powerful, significant, or valuable.*" This word is used in the following scriptures.
  - **Psalm 145:3** - "***Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.***"
  - **Exodus 15:7** - "***And in the greatness of Thine excellence Thou dost overthrow those who rise up against Thee.***"
  - **Deuteronomy 3:24** - "***O Lord GOD, Thou hast begun to show Thy servant Thy greatness and Thy strong hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as Thine?***"
  - **Psalm 66:3** - "***Say to God, "How awesome are Thy works! Because of the greatness of Thy power Thine enemies will give feigned obedience to Thee.***"
  - **Psalm 69:13** - "***O God, in the greatness of Thy lovingkindness.***"
- In the new Testament the main word used for "Greatness" is "*Huperbole*" literally means "*a throwing beyond, hence, a surpassing, an excellence, an exceeding greatness.*" This word is found in the following scriptures.
  - **2 Corinthians 4:7** - "***But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves.***"
  - **Luke 9:43** - "***And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.***"
  - **Ephesians 1:19** - "***And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.***"

## B. What Is The Distinctive Characteristic That Makes One Great?

1. **In history the quality which is common to all is an extraordinary capacity for achievement.**
2. It is when someone does something that is enduring, which lives on even when the person who did it died.
3. **A short list of people like this would be: Alexander The Great, Leonardo Divinchi, Bach, Mozart, Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln, Betsy Ross, Florence Nightingale, etc.**
  - a. These people carved statues or painted pictures or led armies or ruled states or composed music or framed laws or wrote poems or made discoveries or inventions which enriched the lives of everyone.
  - b. **They made a mark on the mind of the world. Their lives and achievements lived on after their deaths.**

C. What Is The Greatness Of Jesus.

1. **If the mark of greatness is achievement, was Jesus Great? What did He achieve?**
  - a. He never chiseled a statue or painted a picture or wrote a poem or composed a piece of music or led an army or published a book or framed a law.
  - b. **Yet everybody without hesitation would call Jesus great.**
  - c. No informed person in this world would deny Him this exalting adjective regardless of what religion they practiced.
  - d. **Not only is He counted great, but in a large part of the world He counted as the greatest.**
    - 1) Charles Lamb gave expression to this feeling that many of us share when he said, "If Shakespeare were to come into this room, we should all rise up to meet him; but if Christ was to come into it, we should all fall upon our knees."
2. **His greatness is greater than that of all others, and it is also different.**
  - a. Other men are great artist or poets or generals or statesmen,
  - b. **Jesus' greatness lies in the realm of personality, in the kingdom of character.**
    - 1) His achievement was not wrought with paint or with chisel or with sword or with pen, but by the heavenly passion of a victorious will.

- 2) **There is nothing of Him but His manhood. We do not say, “behold the poet, or orator, the philosopher;” we say “*Bold the Man.*”**
- c. It is one of the saddest of all surprises to discover on reading the biographies of the world’s great workers how many of them have been narrow and superstitious, selfish and envious, sordid in their ambitions and groveling in their aims.

### 3. **Jesus was great in His soul.**

- a. Insight is a trait of greatness, only great men see deep into things.
  - 1) **He had eyes which saw to the core of every problem and to the center of every situation.**
  - 2) He never missed the essential point or was misled by a subordinate issue.
  - 3) **He stripped off the accidental from the soul of the essential.**
  - 4) It was His insight which made Him formidable to the men who tried to trip Him with their questioning.
- b. **His greatness comes out in His fellowship with His disciples.**
  - 1) The disciples were strong and able men. They later turned the world upside down.
  - 2) **But in His presence they freely and sincerely acknowledged Him as Master.**
  - 3) They were as old in years as Jesus; but in thought and aim, in hope and ideal, they were, as compared with Jesus, only a company of babies.
- c. **His greatness can be seen in the lives that He changed. Greatness is measured by the effects which it produces.**
  - 1) Upon the men of His time He exerted a power so marvelous that it seemed uncanny, and some people thought he must be in league with the devil.
  - 2) **When He spoke men went wild over Him, some in adoration and some in hatred. Wherever He went, He left men seething and bubbling.**
  - 3) Here is the pinnacle of greatness, Jesus changed men.
    - **He changed their habits**
    - He changed their opinions and ambitions
    - **He changed their tempers and dispositions**
    - He changed their natures and their hearts.

- 4) **They were never the same after they gave themselves to Him.**
- d. He is the image of God.
- 1) **His greatness is full-orbed. He had a charm about Him which wooed and fascinated. Children liked and sinners were drawn to Him.**
  - 2) He had the heart of a child, the tenderness of a woman and the strength of a man.
  - 3) **He pushed every good trait of human character to its utmost limit.**
    - His forgiveness was unbounded.
    - **His generosity was untiring.**
    - His patience was inexhaustible.
    - **His mercy was immeasurable.**
    - His courage was illimitable.
    - **His wisdom was unfathomable.**
    - His kindness was interminable.
    - **His faith was unshakable.**
    - His hope indomitable.
    - **And His love was infinite.**
- e. It is impossible to go beyond Him.
- 1) **You can never outgrow Him.**
  - 2) He will always be ahead of You, you shall always hear him saying, "Follow Me."
  - 3) **He is the ideal of the heart.**
  - 4) He is the goal of humanity.
  - 5) **He is the Greatest.**

