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A Great Leader

Perhaps we have all read, witnessed or participated in debates about who was or was not a great leader. Books on political, social and military history debate this. Volumes of business publications and management theory even attempt to approach this within a scientific synthesis. Some place greater emphasis on *results* when evaluating the *leader*. I sardonically frame this as “whoever is able to get the greater number of fools to blindly do their bidding wins the acclaim.” Of course, I recognize that this statement is overly simplistic and indeed overly cynical. Yet, it is meant to draw attention away from an overemphasis on tangibles. Some of the most charismatic *personalities* gaining large followings have proven too often to be some of the basest *characters* within our species.

What these discussions usually miss is that human greatness when inquired upon as a virtue, is a metaphysical quality within the person. We are discussing a *supernatural* ingredient. This makes the discussion difficult to proceed with when so many within the debate are agnostics, atheists, or rationalists, who do not believe in an ongoing intervention into the hearts and minds of humans by their creator. As bravery is discussed as an ingredient of greatness, it becomes cloudy in determining if selfish greed, avoidance of various fears, and hidden nefarious agendas were the greater motivators of the *leader* than was enlightened benevolent selfless sacrifice. In other words, the very criteria that one should use to make such an evaluation often have no solid grounding from which to launch the debate or to establish judgments. Under such hazy benchmarking, agreement upon whom to impute greatness to becomes all the more illusive and external to a scientific synthesis by psychologists.

Did Jesus become less great when the majority forsook him (Jn. 6:66)? Was that a failure of leadership to keep his followers from deserting? If masses of Roman soldiers flocked to Christ and overthrew Caesar in his name, surely modern historians would have imputed yet greater leadership abilities to Jesus than many do today.

God wants Christians to not only fully recognize that only he is the highest sovereign and glorious majesty, but that he is the only *worthy* ruler of the universe. It is the perfect nature and character of God that identifies all that is best in leadership. God transcendently influences humans, particular those who are open to follow his leadership and receive life-changing motivations that are pure, just, full of dignity and holy. All must first lead themselves well under the guiding hand of God to become truly great leaders by the judgment standards of God. In doing this, they become the servants of God and of humanity. They may or may not become icons of human society until after the return of Christ, but eventually they will be recognized as great leaders.

Spiritual distortions warp humanity’s judgment of true greatness. Be circumspect in whom you choose to admire. Seek the true holiness of God and God will elevate you to positions of eternal leadership with glory far beyond your capacities to imagine (Lk. 22:30; I Pet. 5:4, 6; 2 Ti. 2:12, Rom. 8:18, 9:23; **Rev. 5:10; 20:6**, 22:5; also see: I Cor. 15:43, 49; 2 Cor. 3:18).

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