Greatness

**He has done great things beyond understanding,**

**and marvelous things without number.**

***(Job 9:10)***

**Truly I say to you that among those who are born of women**

**there has never risen one greater than John the Baptist;**

**and yet even the least person in the kingdom of heaven**

**is greater than he.**

***(St. Matthew 11:11)***

**Truly, truly, I say to you,**

**He who believes in me shall do the works which I do,**

**and even greater than these things he shall do,**

**because I am going to my Father.**

***(St. John 14:10)***

**All of them, from the least to the greatest,**

**listened to him eagerly, saying,**

**"This man is the power of God that is called Great."**

***(Acts 8:10)***

**And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;**

**and the greatest of these is love.**

***(1 Corinthians 13:13)***

**But you are of God, my children, and have overcome them,**

**because he who is within you is greater than he who is in the world.**

***(1 John 4:4)***

**It takes a great person to give sound advice tactfully, but it takes a greater person to accept it graciously. *(J. C. McCauley)***

**Later, the apostles are recorded doing even greater works than Jesus did. The book of Acts records many healing miracles in early church history. *(John Ross Schroeder, in Plain Truth magazine)***

**If one cannot do great work, it is worthwhile to do good work and think it great. *(Ambrose Bierce)***

**The test of leadership is not to put greatness into humanity, but to elicit it, for the greatness is already there. *(James Buchanan)***

**There are two fatal errors that keep great projects from coming to life: 1. Not finishing. 2. Not starting. *(Buddha)***

**Beating Buffett: Google Inc. founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin named billionaire investor Warren Buffett their role model when they took the Internet search company public in 2004. Now Google has surpassed the market value of Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Berkshire's value: $138.3 billion; Google's value: $139.9 billion. *(Rocky Mountain News, January 10, 2006)***

**It is the nature of all greatness not to be exact. *(Edmund Burke)***

**It is a great advantage to a president, and a major source of safety to the country, for him to know he is not a great man. *(Calvin Coolidge, former U.S. president)***

**Great dancers are not great because of their technique; they are great because of their passion. *(Martha Graham)***

**Do not confuse notoriety and fame with greatness. Many of the titled in today’s world obtained their fame and fortunes outside their own merit. On the other hand, I have met great people in the most obscure roles in life. For, you see, greatness is a measure of one’s spirit, not a result of one’s rank in human affairs. Nobody, least of all mere humans, confers greatness upon another, for it is not a price but an achievement. And greatness, can crown the head of a janitor just as readily as it can come to someone of high rank. *(Sherman G. Finesilver, in Vital Speeches of the Day)***

**Alone in all history. Jesus estimates the greatness of man. One man was true to what is in me and you. He saw that God incarnates Himself in man, and ever more goes forth anew to take possession of the world. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**We cannot all be great, but we can always attach ourselves to something that is great. *(Harry Emerson Fosdick)***

**Ben Franklin was not always the wise and restrained man we now picture him as being. When he was young he was often brash, rude and tactless. To Franklin’s credit, however, he learned the folly of his actions, and set out to change them. One of Franklin’s youthful faults was intolerance of the weaknesses and foibles of others. He was often bluntly critical and would tell people to their faces what was wrong with them. Naturally, he created many enemies. Later in life, though, Franklin became so adroit at handling people that he was made Ambassador to France. There he was greatly admired for his diplomatic talents. Someone once asked Franklin the secret of his success in getting along with others. “I will speak ill of no man,” he answered, “and speak all the good I know of everybody.” Carlyle put it another way: “A great man shows his greatness by the way he treats little men.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry, the philosophy which does not laugh and the greatness which does not bow before children. *(Kahlil Gibran, in Mirrors of the Soul)***

**The pearl is another example of greatness coming out of adversity. Where does the beautiful jewel come from? It begins as an irritating grain of sand, which somehow has made its way between the folds of the oyster shell. The pearl emerges as the result of the oyster’s reaction to the irritant. Someone has said, “A pearl is an oyster that has been wounded.” *(Rev. Billy Graham, in Till Armageddon)***

**"Great" holiness consists in carrying out the "little duties" of each moment. *(St. Josemaria Escriva)***

**A retentive memory may be a good thing, but the ability to forget is the true token of greatness. *(Elbert Hubbard)***

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**Many great ideas have been lost because the people who had them couldn't stand being laughed at. *(Quoted in Grit)***

**The ideas of Divine Mind are whole and complete in their capacity to unfold perpetually greater and more beautiful forms according to the thinking capacity in man. *(Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 94)***

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**If a man has any greatness in him, it comes to light -- not in one flamboyant hour, but in the ledger of his daily work. *(Beryl Markham, in West With the Night)***

**If you think you're great, then something is seriously wrong with you. *(Marina Abramavic, artist)***

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**The secular world has been taught that Jesus was so superior to mortal man that He can be thought of only as a god. This removes Him from us all as a man whose character we may emulate and as an example of what we may become and places His attainments far beyond human possibilities. *(Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 168)***

**Socrates taught for 40 years, Plato for 50, Aristotle for 40, and Jesus for only 3. Yet the influence of Christ's 3-year ministry infinitely transcends the impact left by the combined 130 years of teaching from these men who were among the greatest philosophers of all antiquity. Jesus painted no pictures; yet, some of the finest paintings of Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci received their inspirations from Him. Jesus wrote no poetry; but Dante, Milton, and scores of the world's greatest poets were inspired by Him. Jesus composed no music; still Haydn, Handel, Beethoven, Bach, and Mendelssohn reached their highest perfection of melody in the hymns, symphonies, and oratories they composed in His praise. Every sphere of human greatness has been enriched by this humble Carpenter of Nazareth. (Henry G. Bosch)**

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**No man ever yet became great by imitation. (Samuel Johnson)**

**The best lesson anyone can take from the life of basketball great Michael Jordan lies in a brief period when no one thought he was any good – during his attempt to play baseball. Those days of humiliation provide the answer to why the brilliant days are so often his. Just about every morning of that baseball summer, Jordan would urge his batting instructor to join him at the minor-league ballpark. Everyone knew Jordan wouldn’t make it to the majors, but he wasn’t about to concede. Instead, he worked and worked, hour after hour, trying to get better at something at which he had already been declared a failure. It was the best and truest Jordan. The great moments, when the world cheers, are not the moments that count. The ones that count are when it’s just you, and people have stopped believing in you. Those are the moments that define you. *(Bob Greene, in Chicago Tribune)***

**Greatness lies not in being strong, but in the right use of strength. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Religious faith is not a storm cellar to which men and women can flee for refuge from the storms of life. It is, instead, an inner spiritual strength that enables them to face those storms with hope and serenity. Religious faith has the miraculous power to lift ordinary human beings to greatness in seasons of stress. Religious faith is to be found in the promises of God. *(Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., in Humor of a Country Lawyer)***

**The mark of a truly great man is to be loved and trusted by a child. To destroy that relationship is the mark of a beast. *(J. Ray Shute)***

**Greatness of name in the father oftentimes overwhelms the son; they stand too near one another. The shadow kills the growth, *(Ben Jonson)***

**What makes a nation great is not primarily its great men, but the stature of its innumerable mediocre ones*. (Jose Ortega y Gasset, philosopher)***

**Who was the greatest man who ever lived? Some years ago this question was asked of college students in many countries around the world. Their answer may surprise you: the list was headed by Louis Pasteur. Asked why they had chosen him over all others in the history of mankind, thestudents listed these qualities: his work, his enthusiasm, his courage, and his ability to learn from mistakes. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The path to moments of greatness in your life will be paved, in part, with your spectacular failures. *(Leslie Odom Jr., actor, in Failing Up: How to Take Risks, Aim Higher and Never Stop Learning)***

**Great people do things before they're ready. *(Amy Poehler, comedian)***

**The Price of Greatness: Francis Ford Coppola, director of the gangster movie The Godfather, Part III, used to lambaste criticism from the press as attempts to thwart his genius. Now, he says, he is coming to terms with it. Coppola remarks: "I once saw a famous bullfighter doing pretty well. But the crowd was booing. I said, "They're so rude!” Then a guy said, "Listen, they're paying about a day's wages, and he's getting $50,000 for this hour -- he's gotta be great!" And that's the way I see the press. They're saying, "If you're standing where he is and you're commanding the attention of the world, you have to live up to it each time you make a film." I'll do my best. I hope I'll live up to it. *(Peter J. Boyer, in Vanity Fair)***

**It’s not fortune or fame or worldwide acclaim that makes for true greatness, you’ll find – it’s the wonderful art of teaching the heart to always be thoughtful and kind. *(Helen Steiner Rice)***

**Great nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts -- the book of their deeds, the book of their words and the book of their art. *(John Ruskin)***

**Be not afraid of greatness: Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. *(William Shakespeare, in Act Two of Twelfth-Night)***

**A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in. *(Old Greek proverb)***

**Like all sports, basketball has produced its moments of greatness. One of the high points of college basketball was reached in the 1949-50 season, when the underdog City College of New York became the first--and only -- team to win both the NCAA and NIT championships in the same year. The Beavers had finished their schedule that year without ranking among the top 20 teams, and had been the last squad to be invited to both tournaments. Yet they went on to victory in both competitions, in the process of defeating the teams ranked one, two, three, five, and six. (Bruce D. Witherspoon, in Astounding Facts , p. 47)**

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**It is the nature of man to rise to greatness if greatness is expected of him. *(John Steinbeck)***

**Somewhere in the world there is a defeat for everyone. Some are destroyed by defeat, and some made small and mean by victory. Greatness lives in one who triumphs equally over defeat and victory. *(John Steinbeck)***

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**He who thinks great thoughts often makes great errors. (Martin Heidegger)**

**There is no greatness where there is not simplicity, goodness and truth. *(Leo Tolstoy, in War and Peace)***

**Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great. *(Mark Twain)***

**When a man realizes his littleness, his greatness can appear. *(H. G. Wells)***

**Every great man nowadays has his disciples, and it is always Judas who writes the biography. *(Oscar Wilde)***

**I tell every child I meet, "You have greatness inside you, and your job is to figure out what that is, dig it out, and give it to the world." *(Henry Winkler, American actor)***

**You don't become great by trying to be great. You become great by wanting to do something and then doing it so hard that you become great in the process. *(Randall Munroe, creator of the Web comic xked, in his comic Marie Curie)***

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