



**SERIES: Spiritual Fitness: Christian Living**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Monday April 26, 2021**

**Scripture: [Mark 9:34-35](#) / [John 13:12-14](#)**

**TITLE: True Greatness**

Who is your hero? Who is that person that has inspired you? When I was a kid, it was Hulk Hogan. He was larger than life. He took down the bad guys. His encouragement to his Hulksters was to “Train, Say your prayers, and Take your vitamins”. He was “The Man”.

As an adult, I’ve had many people disciple me from afar, and even up close. Some have even been former Bible teachers here at Back to the Bible. But what makes our heroes great? Is it influence? Is it power? Is it money or knowledge? Well, Jesus said what makes a person great isn’t influence, power, money, or knowledge. His answer was quite scandalous. What makes a person great in God’s eyes? Listen to Jesus in Mark 9:

“{The disciples} had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, ‘Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.’” (Mark 9:34b-35, NLT)

This passage cracks me up and also confuses me. First, you have boys being boys, by trying to figure out who’s the greatest—pretty typical guy stuff. But then Jesus says, “You want the real answer? Be a servant. That’s greatness.” That goes against our very nature. That goes against our society and culture. That goes against the majority of leadership books - but not the greatest leadership book: the Bible.

You see, we as Christians are called to pursue spiritual fitness. And being spiritually fit means eating the Christian diet, and exercising the Christian lifestyle. One way is through being a servant.

Jesus Christ is God in the flesh. He came to this Earth to serve, suffer, and die. The God of the Universe, who created the world and the stars, bent down on His knees before His death, to wash the feet of the disciples. After He did this, He asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? <sup>13</sup> You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right because that’s what I am. <sup>14</sup> And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet” (John 13:12b-14)

Greatness is not power, prestige, money, influence, or knowledge - It’s servanthood. It’s knowing who we are and who God is. It’s knowing what He has done and replicating it to the body of Christ and the people around us.

So here’s my challenge for you today: Serve. I get it. Service may not be your love language. It doesn’t have to be. You are called to live a life pleasing to God, and this means service. Who can

you serve today? What can you do? Can you run an errand for a shut-in? Can you offer to watch the single mom's kids while she shops? Can you be a listening ear to a hurting friend? Can you volunteer to clean the tables at the local shelter? Can you make a meal for the new neighbor?

God provides so many opportunities. The question is, will we serve when the opportunities arise? As His child, I know you will. Share what you're doing or did in service below, so we can be motivated to do the same. Now let's go serve and win the day.