

Greatest of All Time

Selfless Ambition

Great leaders are not those who make their authority over others felt. Great leaders (and great people) are those who, like Christ, place themselves and their gifts at the service of others. They have no fear of losing their status, because they have no status to lose.

Discussion Questions

1. What would you do if you were guaranteed not to fail?
 2. Two kinds of ambition lead to evil: selfish ambition and no ambition. Do you find yourself leaning towards one or the other kind? Since the mean (according to Aristotle) is healthy ambition, many of us tilt to one side or the other when trying to find the “middle way”. Discuss.
 3. Ambition requires the willingness to risk. Every time we take a step, we risk losing something. Is there anything in your life that you fear losing (by taking a healthy risk)? Please share and discuss.
 4. Jesus demonstrates “Level Five Leadership” in placing Himself and His safety at the service of the Father’s mission and service to others. His humility sets Him apart. What is one area where you regularly place yourself and your gifts at the service of the Gospel or others? What is one area where you could do so in the future?
 5. A little child had no status in the ancient world, so they had nothing to lose. Christians cannot cling to status in this world...and yet we are all tempted to. Whose opinion (of you) do you find yourself valuing most in such a way that it can influence your choices? Please share and discuss.
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God in Real Life

This week, take some time to pray with the call to place yourself and your gifts at the service of Christ. What does He want you to do with them? For His sake, not for yours.

To the Heart

“Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity.” James 3:16-17