

Are Greatness And Fame Synonymous?

“Strongest minds are often those of whom the noisy world hears least.” Quote from writings of William Wordsworth.

I feel this can be applied to the Christian fellowship, *“the purest saints are often these of whom the noisy church hears least.”*

Human society has fallen into the error of assuming that greatness and fame are synonymous.

How wrong can we get!

We have but to become acquainted with, or even listen to, the big names of our times to discover how wretchedly inferior most of them are.

Many appear to have arrived at their present eminence in society by pulling strings, brass nerve, gall and lucky accident.

Such people cause us to wonder in discouragement, is this the best that the human race can produce?

Then we recall some of the people who live unheralded and unsung who are made of stuff infinitely finer than the loud-voiced charlatans who occupy too many of the highest offices in the land.

If we are to see society in its true light we need to break away from the power of the false philosophy that equates greatness with fame. The two are often oceans and continents apart.

The big problem is that the Christian Church is **not** wholly unaffected by the world and has fallen into the habit of accepting the noisiest and most notorious among them as the best and the greatest.

Matthew 20:25-28 [NIV] *“Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’”*

This true attitude to leadership is far from the minds of most of those in high office today.

Luke 22:25-26 [NIV] *“Jesus said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.’”*

These leaders *“call themselves”* benefactors, the Greek word *“ēuērgētēs”* meaning *“a worker for good.”*

Too often such a title is far from the truth, for many are selfish and arrogant as they claw their way to the top.

Any true Christian has the “heart of a servant.”

Jesus Christ visually expressed this attitude of mind when He took on the job of the lowest of servants and washed the feet of His disciples. [**John 13:5-14**]

Today it seems that Godliness is **no** longer valued, except in the very old or the very dead.

This whole short-sighted philosophy, that ignores eternal qualities and majors on trivialities, is a form of unbelief.

Such Christians who embody such a philosophy are clamouring after present rewards, they are too impatient to await the Lord's time of giving rewards.

Hebrews 6:10-12 [NIV] *“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”*

To await on Jesus Christ for any rewards for our loyal service is to develop two Godlike characteristics, patience and faithfulness.

A true Christian sees farther than the present, they care little for passing values. They look forward with great eagerness to the day when eternal things will come into their own and Godliness will be found in all that matters.

Strange as it may seem, such Christians have earned the reputation for being pessimistic.

Their indifference to the world's attractions and their contentment [**Philippians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 6:6**], together with their steady resistance to the world's temptations, have been misunderstood by shallow thinkers and attributed to an unsocial spirit and a lack of love for humanity.

What the world fails to understand is that these true Christians are walking day-by-day in the light of another kingdom that will come to earth with the Second Coming of their Saviour Jesus Christ.

These are the unknown people that Paul was referring to in his letter to the Church in Corinth.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 [NIV] *“Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, so that no-one may boast before him.”*

These unknown future leaders in the new “world tomorrow” are **not** pessimists but the world's only true optimists.

The wise Christian will be content to wait for this new “world tomorrow”, for they are among those of faith in what is yet unseen.

Hebrews 11:1, 13 [NIV] *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” ... “All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.”*

We need to read all of this passage of scripture to understand the mindset of those who have followed the words of Jesus Christ when He gave us the key to successful life now, recorded in **Matthew 6:24-33**.

2 Peter 3:9-14 [NIV] *“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends,*

since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.”

Within this scripture, there are four words that we all should meditate on, “*and speed its coming.*”

Could this mean that our lack of developing the Godly character that the Creator God is looking for in us personally, could be causing the delay of this future new world? [**Matthew 24:36**]

Any true Christian will give small attention to popularity, for they know the only One they are seeking to please is their Creator God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

None of us will live as humans much longer and where we are heading after physical death we will be known **not** by our popularity rating but by our holiness of character.