## Behind the Hymn: If You Would Be Great

When the mother of disciples James and John came to Jesus, asking for "greatness" for her sons in Christ's Kingdom, Jesus gave all His disciples the formula for true greatness:

"Whoever wants to be 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." (Matthew 20:26-28, NIV)

Servanthood is God's standard for greatness, not just for individuals, but for the Church, for individual churches and ministries, and for nations. Servanthood is the same standard for all, for God has only one heart. His desire is always compassion, always mercy, always reaching out to the needy. He wants all people and all institutions to join Him in this outreach.

Nations, churches, children of God, if you want to be great, use your God-given blessings to serve those in need.

--Ken Bible

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