



I Want to Be Great #4 :: A Conflict of Interest {Andy Stanley}

INTRODUCTION

Our character defines our greatness. Sure, we may know people who are “great at” something. But when we think of truly great people, it is their character... their willingness to love unconditionally or give generously... their willingness to do the right thing at all costs... that makes them great. Yet, there is a very real tension, a conflict of interest, in making decisions that may sacrifice who we want to be in order to get where we want to go. Those tests are not easy to pass. But when you hear those stories of people that choose character over accomplishments, you automatically recognize greatness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Consider the *great* people you know. Do you consider them *great* as a result of their character or because of their accomplishments?
2. When have you ever chosen to pursue success or recognition at the expense of your integrity?
3. “The most direct path to success or maintaining success is often not the most ethical one.” Do you agree or disagree?
4. Read Daniel 1. By the end of the book, Daniel is recognized as great and his name is recorded in the Bible. How does his decision in this chapter reflect his greatness?
5. Read Daniel 1:9. How does our view of God affect our decisions to be *great at* something versus being *great*?
6. Daniel’s decision to place his trust in his heavenly father is what made him great. What steps can you take in order to not settle for just being *great at* something but being genuinely *great*?

THINK ABOUT IT

Every decision you make and the subsequent outcome writes a chapter in the story of your life. For Daniel, the wisdom and courage he displayed to know and do what’s right, even when it was hard, demonstrated his greatness far beyond any accomplishments he may have achieved. In our journey, we can ask two questions to help us choose greatness:

Who are you going to trust?
Which story do I want to tell?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, as you pursue greatness, commit to praying “Lord give me the wisdom to know what’s right and the courage to do what’s right, even when it’s hard.”

CHANGING YOUR MIND

The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.
Proverbs 11:3