



# Life of Christ

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus

## Always Someone Better

*by Logan Dalton*

The disciples' bickering over who was to be the greatest probably sounded much like our modern-day debates over the all-time greats: Who's the best athlete? Which brand is the best? Who is the greatest actor or actress? What's the all-time greatest movie collection? (It's Marvel, by the way—in case you are wondering. :) ) Many candidates are dubbed the best, the most admired, or the most acclaimed, each with valid points and strong suits. Our world has placed such an emphasis on what it means to be the best that it's almost like idolatry. But being the greatest in the world's eyes is not what Jesus calls us to be.

As followers of Jesus, we don't need to strive to be the greatest in this world; instead, we need to pursue Jesus and serve God and others. This is easier said than done, though! Recognition, praise, and admiration from others seem to be more rewarding in the moment. But they don't last in light of eternity.

So, I am NOT an athlete. Well, let me rephrase that. I'm not your typical athlete. The only sport I was ever good at in school was baton twirling. (Hey, it most definitely counts as a sport!) I began taking twirling lessons in sixth grade, and seventh grade marked my first of six years as a majorette. When senior year arrived, I threw my hat in the ring for high school majorette captain. I already had the privilege of being co-captain the previous year, as well as ninth grade captain; but I wanted it more than ever senior year because it was my last year to shine.

The choice came down to three of us, one of whom was my best friend. My two opponents were both fantastic twirlers, but, well gosh, I just thought that I was IT! Especially since I had the frame of mind that "might [from Logan's authority] makes right." Tryouts came and went. The results? I made it onto the majorette line, but I didn't make captain—or even co-captain. I was so disappointed. There's the saying that goes

something like, “Whatever you think you’re the best at, there is always someone better than you.” Ouch! On that day, this quote slapped me in the face.

In hindsight, I realize that just as Jesus interrupted the disciples’ arguments over who was the greatest, He also interrupted my selfish entitlement. He didn’t want me to be obsessed with how others would see me, which I must admit was one of the reasons why I wanted to be captain. God was trying to get through my thick head that the worldly recognition and admiration I sought from the “Captain” title would be only temporary.

I wish I could tell you that I accepted the results with humility and grace, being thankful for what God did give me; or, that I led with a servant’s heart, always willing to serve. But that’s not what I did. It wasn’t every day, but some days (especially my bad days), I came to majorette practice with a chip on my shoulder, ready to butt heads with anyone who didn’t like my ideas or input.

Wow, I regret acting like that! If only I had listened to Jesus, since He did (and does) know best, and realized that being the greatest is not what He called me to. He calls me to love and serve God and others, no matter how entitled or obligated I feel. The Father wants something more for me and for us: authority and greatness in the Kingdom, not in this broken world.

**Question** Is there an area of your life that you need to release control to God, even if you’re the one in charge?

**Family Chat** Play a short game of charades, acting out different scenarios that come up as you get older that need to be released to God. Share stories of things you’ve held onto that you wish you would have released to Him sooner with your kids.

**Take Action** Invite your accountability partner to help you work through today’s question.