

The problem isn't just that we fail at being great, it's that we've failed to live in relationship with the God who made us. We've all tried to chase greatness *without* him. The Bible calls that sin. It breaks our relationship with God.

But Jesus – God's Son – gave up his greatness to fix what we broke. He became one of us and died on the cross in our place. That's the punishment we deserve: death and separation from God.

The cross tells us something radical: God doesn't love us *because* we're impressive or full of promise. He loves us *despite* our failures. Not because of what we've done, but because of what Jesus has done for us.

The greatest – God the Son himself – stepped down and took our place.

He carried all our failures, and all our shame and guilt for the hidden ways in which we've not been great at all. Human greatness always fades. Only Jesus' greatness lasts forever.

And having died, he rose from the dead, proving that the penalty for sin had been paid in full. Now he offers us his greatness – so that we can be forgiven, restored and saved.

### WHAT IF HIS GREATNESS COULD BE YOURS?

Imagine your country wins the World Cup. The streets erupt with joy. You weren't on the field – you were just on the sofa eating pizza – but now the captain calls you. Not just to celebrate, but to give you something unexpected: his medal, his jersey, his place of honour. You didn't earn it. But he freely gives it.

That's a glimpse of what Jesus does. He doesn't just win, he offers to share his victory with you. He'll take what's yours – your sin, shame and eternal death – and give you what's his – life, honour and a right relationship with God. Then, when God looks at you he won't see your failures; he'll see Jesus' greatness.

It sounds upside down in a world where greatness must be earned through talent, fame or success. Jesus offers you everything that's his freely. You just have to say yes and trust him.

### Will you?

*"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ"*  
(2 Corinthians 5:21).



To find out more about Jesus Christ please visit:

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# WHO IS THE GREATEST FOOTBALLER OF ALL TIME... THE GOAT?



Now there's a new debate:  
**Mbappé? Vinícius? Yamal?**

Are you Team **Messi** or Team **Ronaldo**? Or, if you're a bit older, maybe **Maradona** or **Pelé**?

But how do we even measure greatness? Does Messi's World Cup victory outweigh Ronaldo's goals? Do Ronaldo's five Champions Leagues beat Messi's eight Ballons d'Or? Or is it about more than stats – is it about the story? Messi, destined for greatness at eight. Ronaldo, the relentless worker.

It's the kind of debate that divides families and dominates playgrounds, offices and late-night phone-ins. But why do we care so much?

Because we're wired to admire.

We admire greatness in sport, music and leadership. We admire parents, coaches, teachers, older siblings – people we want to become.

We admire greatness because deep down, we long for it ourselves. We copy those we admire. We try to train

like Ronaldo. We attempt to curl free-kicks like Messi. To be human is to long for greatness.

## WHY DOES GREATNESS ALWAYS FADE?

But even the greatest fade. Age wins. Bodies tire. Retirement comes. And the closer we look, the more cracks we see. No one is perfect. Even heroes disappoint.

That realisation hits closer to home too. Most of us never reach the dreams we had as kids. We discover that hard work isn't enough; talent matters too. We can't be like Messi or Ronaldo – or anyone we admire in our fields – without the gifts they were given.

## COULD JESUS BE THE GREATEST?

*TIME* magazine puts Jesus at No. 1 in their "Who's Biggest?" list of the 100 most significant people in history.

Christians throughout history and around the world would say he is the GOAT. Yet by the world's standards, he achieved very little. He was a carpenter from a small town. No medals. No trophies. The symbol most associated with him is the cross – a tool of execution and shame. It would be like a footballer proudly displaying a loser's medal or framing the letter saying they were cut from the team.

It makes no sense, and the Bible agrees: for many people, the *"message of the cross is foolishness ... But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God"* (1 Corinthians 1:18).

It seems absurd that the greatest moment in history was the death of a carpenter from Nazareth. But on that cross, the world's greatest problem was solved.