

**Muhammad Ali "the greatest."**

Muhammad Ali, the boxer, used to call himself "the greatest!" There was something comical about his arrogance. Once he declared: "I float like a butterfly, I sting like a bee." The story is told of him that once when he was on an airplane about to take off, the flight steward said, "Sir, would you please fasten your seat belt?" Muhammad Ali replied, "Superman doesn't need a seat belt." The steward replied, "In that case, Superman doesn't need an airplane to fly." — Today's Gospel tells us of two of Jesus' disciples who wanted to be supermen—to sit at the right hand and the left hand of Jesus in the Messianic kingdom- to be the greatest, to be the first. Fr. Tony (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

**"Then there was only one man who thought he was Napoleon."**

George Bernard Shaw, the famous author, was once asked in what generation he would have preferred to live. The witty Irishman replied: "The age of Napoleon, because then there was only one man who thought he was Napoleon." — What James and John are asking for is nothing less than the power to command the army of Israel. Rabbis and scholars at the time taught that the Messiah when he came would be the new David, King of Israel. He would rule with a mighty sword and vanquish all of Israel's enemies. The disciples were under the same impression. Fr. Tony (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

**"Dad, did you realize that you treated the president of the hospital and the janitor just alike?"**

James Moore tells about a man named George. George was a peacemaker with a big heart and wonderful sense of humor. George claimed he was, "so tenderhearted that he cried at supermarket openings!" Everyone at Church loved George. He was respected at the hospital where he worked. The reason so many people loved George was because he was always kind and always respectful to everyone he met. His children vividly remember the days George spent in the hospital before he died. The president of the hospital paid him a visit. He and George talked like they were old friends. A couple of minutes later one of the janitors came to visit. And they spoke like they were old friends. When the janitor left, one of George's children said to him, "Dad, did you realize that you treated the president of the hospital and the janitor just alike?" George smiled, chuckled and said, "Let me ask you something — if the president left for two weeks and the janitor left for two weeks, which one do you think would be missed the most?"

Then George called his children around his bed. "Let me show you something I carry in my pocket all the time, even when I mow the lawn." George pulled out a pocket-sized cross and a marble. George said, "On the cross are written these words, 'God Loves You,' and on

the marble are these words, 'Do unto Others as You Would Have Them Do unto You.' The cross reminds me of how deeply God loves me, and the marble reminds me of how deeply God wants me to love others." [James W. Moore, *When All Else Fails* (Nashville: *Dimensions for Living*, 1993), p. 78.] — That's A SERVANT'S HEART. That's the Heart Jesus wants us all to have as we seek to serve Him and become more and more like Him each day by giving Him our heart. Fr. Tony (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

### **Power Verses Service**

Alexander, Caesar, and Hannibal conquered the world but had no friends.... Jesus founded his empire upon love, and at this hour millions would die for him.... He has won the hearts of men, a task a conqueror cannot do." (by Napoleon)

### **Carrot flight to heaven:**

Rev. Anthony DeMello S. J. shares this tale: An old woman was dying. While examining her records, the Heavenly court could not find a single act of charity performed by her except for a carrot she had once given to a starving beggar. Such, however, was the power of a single deed of love that the merciful Lord decreed that she be taken up to Heaven on the strength of that carrot.

The angel brought back the carrot from heaven and gave it to her soul which was leaving her body. The moment she caught hold of the carrot, it began to rise as if pulled by some invisible string, lifting her up toward the sky.

The soul of a beggar appeared. He clutched the hem of her garment and was lifted with her; a third person caught hold of the beggar's foot and was lifted too. Soon there was a long line of souls being lifted up to Heaven by that carrot. And, strange as it may seem, the woman did not feel the weight of all those people who held onto her. In fact, since she was looking Heavenward, she did not even see them. Higher and higher they rose until they almost reached the Heavenly gates.

That was when the woman looked back to catch a last glimpse of the earth and saw this whole train of people behind her. She was indignant! She gave an imperious wave of her hand and shouted, "Off! Off, all of you! This carrot is mine!" In making her proud gesture, she let go of the carrot for a moment - and down she fell with the entire train.

— De Mello concludes: There is only one cause for every evil on earth: the **"This is mine! attitude!"** Today's Gospel describes how Jesus handled greed in two disciples. Fr. Tony