



Dom Deboo talks about...

Being a Man of God

There are many ways of defining what it means to be a man. Some people will tell you that a true man is someone who is 'hard as nails', such as Ross Kemp or Ricky Hatton. Others will tell you that it's all based on success; for sports think Usain Bolt, money Roman Abramovich or musical ability Kanye West or whoever you're into. Therefore most blokes feel under pressure to be good looking, good with the girls, funny, popular, good at sports, musical, intelligent, rich, etc. etc..... But how on earth can anybody be all of those things the same time? If you think about it, it all starts to sound a little bit ridiculous.

Instead one of my favourite definitions comes from Samuel Johnson. He says; 'The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good'. Think about it. This is not easy. At school or youth club, or in your sports club, there are always people who others don't want to be associated with. They might not be as 'cool' as everyone else, or they might even just be different. But this is where the test is. It's often easier to go with the crowd and dislike someone, ignore them, or worse, insult or abuse them. But according to Johnson, the test of a man is how you treat that person. The coward treats them badly. The good person treats them well. But the great person treats them with love.

What does the bible say? In Matthew 23:10, Jesus says 'The greatest among you will be your servant'. Effectively, God's definition of greatness is not about who's at the top, but who is willing to be at the bottom so that other people can be loved and served. This is hard because we might not get recognised or get any attention. But the question is, in whose eyes do you want to be great? And how hard do you want to work to get there?

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'Yfaith' is an initiative of Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation (CASE)
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