



Great leaders throughout history, those who have influenced the world for good or for evil, have usually had humble beginnings. At some point in their lives, their ultimate destiny became clear and they pursued it with passion. Consider the destiny of the following men, who had achieved their position, like Esther, “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14). Each one “stood in the gap” (Ezekiel 22:30) and was used by God in very significant ways:

Joseph was the favorite and youngest son, hated by his brothers, falsely accused and thrown into prison in Egypt where God wanted him to be so he could become the 2nd most powerful man in the middle east and save the world.

Moses was an oppressed immigrant from Israel who became a powerful Prince of Egypt and then a shepherd, prepared by God to lead the people out of captivity in the exodus from Egypt.

David was the youngest son and a shepherd, He is known today as a lover of God and great king of Israel.

Daniel was an exiled expatriate who became a superior scholar and then Prime Minister during 3 administrations in Babylon, the most powerful empire on earth.

Paul was an unknown rabbi who persecuted an embryonic religion. He later embraced the faith, witnessing to kings and Caesar’s household, leading to the transformation of Western life and culture.

John the Baptist preceded Jesus and announced His coming. “He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light” (John 1:8). When Jesus came, he said, “*I am the light of the world*. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). Despite the arrival of light, “men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil” (John 3:19). Perhaps that is why Dr. Charles Malik, President of the 13th session of the General Assembly, made the following observation:

The needs of the world are much deeper than political freedom and security, much deeper than social justice and economic development, much deeper than democracy and progress.... The deeper needs of the world belong to the sphere of the mind, the heart and the spirit, a sphere to be penetrated with the light and grace of Jesus Christ.

Jesus himself encouraged people to “Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light” (John 12:35-36). Most remarkable, as he anticipated his own departure, Jesus passed the torch to his followers at the conclusion of the beatitudes, “*You are the light of the world.... Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven*” (Matthew 5:14-16).

What is your destiny? You have been blessed eight different ways. Now be a blessing to others!

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1. In what ways can a person be “salt of the earth?” (Matthew
 2. In what ways can a person be “light of the world?”
 3. What opportunities exist in your sphere of influence to be salt and light?
 4. What obstacles stand in your way to be salt and light?

*“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt,
so that you may know how to answer everyone.”*
(Colossians 4:6)

~~ Do Good Anyway ~~

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.

Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.

Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten.

Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.