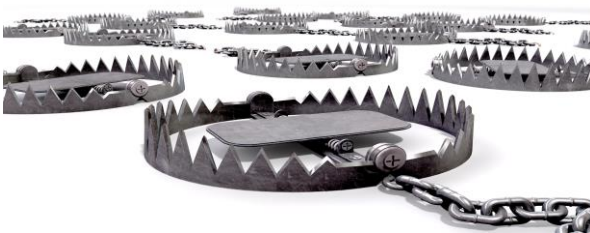




Michael Phelps : Fox Sports News – 10 Aug 2016

American swimmer Michael Phelps, the most decorated Olympian of all time, revealed that he suffered a crisis of identity two years ago...

ESPN reported that Phelps was "struggling to figure out who he was outside the pool" in 2014, which led him to heavy drinking and wondering whether his life was worth living...."



The 'Greatness' Trap
Mark 9:30-41

US Olympic Divers Following Silver Medal Performance: 'Our Identity Is in Christ' – CNS News: 9 Aug

Following their silver medal performance in the Men's synchronized 10m platform at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, David Boudia and Steele Johnson reiterated what helped keep them grounded in preparation for the competition – that "our identity is in Christ."

Steele Johnson & David Boudia

Boudia's Twitter feed reads simply: "Follower of Christ, Psalm 115:1. Husband. Father. Olympic Champion Diver."

Johnson's feed reads: "Christ Follower. 2016 Olympian. Cinematographer"

Steele Johnson & David Boudia

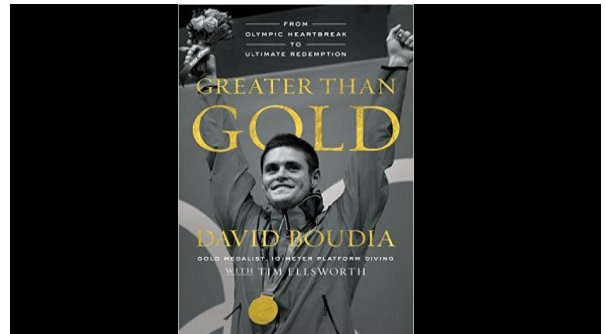
"It's cool because this is exciting, this is fun, but this is not what my identity will be for the rest of my life," he said. "Yeah, I'm Steele Johnson the Olympian, but at the same time, I'm here to love and serve Christ. My identity is rooted in Christ, not in the flips we're doing."

Steele Johnson & David Boudia

"We can't take credit for this," Boudia told NBC Sports. "To God be the glory."

Boudia has talked very openly in the past about his faith, after the London Olympics he spoke these powerful words at his church...

"I am not a diving coach who happens to be a Christian," he said. "But rather I am a Christian, follower of Christ, who happens to be a diving coach."



The 'Greatness' Trap

Theme:

Find your identity in Christ, not self!

Mark 9:31

For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.

Mark 9:32

But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.

PRIDE

Mark 9:33-34

And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.

Mark 9:35

And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.

The 'Greatness' Trap

Find your identity in Christ, not self

- Value service in love, not status in life!

Matthew 20:20-21

Then came to him the mother of Zebedees children with her sons (*James and John*), worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

Matthew 20:24-28

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; ...

Matthew 20:24-28

... And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

The 'Greatness' Trap

Find your identity in Christ, not self

- Value service in love, not status in life!

Mark 9:36-37

And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them, Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me:...

Mark 9:36-37

And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them, Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

The 'Greatness' Trap

Find your identity in Christ, not self

- Value service in love, not status in life!

The 'Greatness' Trap

Find your identity in Christ, not self

- Value service in love, not status in life!
- Practice inclusiveness, not exclusiveness!

Mark 9:38-40

And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us.

Mark 9:38-40

But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part.

Mark 9:41

For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink *in my name*, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.

The 'Greatness' Trap

Find your identity in Christ, not self

- Value service in love, not status in life!
- Practice inclusiveness, not territoriality!



The 'Greatness' Trap

Mark 9:30-41