

Louis the Great

The king, who liked to be referred to as Louis the Great, ruled France from 1643 to 1715 with absolute power and incredible splendor. His funeral was held in a magnificent cathedral that was lit by a single candle alongside the ornate coffin.

When it was time for Jean-Baptiste Massillon to speak, he reached out and extinguished the flame.

Then he broke the silence with the words, "Only God is great."

Today, we recognize and admire some of our fellow mortals who are considered to be great thinkers, great scientists, great inventors, great achievers in every field of endeavor. But they still have the same needs we do. They experience aches and pains. They have troubled minds and hungry hearts. They cannot stave off death or guarantee life beyond the grave.

As Massillon declared, only God is truly great – great enough to meet all our needs, great enough to forgive all our sins, great enough to lead us in the care of our residents, and great enough to carry us through the dark valley of death to be with Him forever.

--Beecher Hunter