

# The Greatness of Service

Matthew 20:20-28

## The All-Too-Human Ambition (vv. 20-21)

*"... to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom."*

We want \_\_\_\_\_/Authority ...

We desire \_\_\_\_\_/Recognition ...

They assume that following Jesus leads to \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.

Kingdom greatness is not about being \_\_\_\_\_—it's about being \_\_\_\_\_.

## The High Cost of Authority and Power (vv. 22-23)

*"You do not know what you are asking."*

The "cup" = \_\_\_\_\_.

Ultimately, they did drink the cup, just not how they imagined.

*James becomes the first apostolic martyr (Acts 12:2).*

*John suffers long, exiled and alone (Rev 1:9).*

In scripture, leadership always means \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_.

Examples:

Moses

David

Paul

Jesus

## The Misunderstood Kingdom (vv. 21-23)

*Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?"*

*They said to him, "We are able."*

Their theology is correct—Jesus *will* reign—but their assumptions are wrong.

They expect a kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_, but Jesus is ushering in a kingdom through \_\_\_\_\_.

Many want to be \_\_\_\_\_ by God but don't want to be \_\_\_\_\_ by God.

Many desire kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ without kingdom \_\_\_\_\_.

## The "Indignant" Disciples (vv. 24)

*"... when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers."*

Their indignation isn't \_\_\_\_\_. It's \_\_\_\_\_.

This is a powerful warning for us—especially those in ministry, leadership, or positions of influence:

\_\_\_\_\_ often wears spiritual clothes.

## Pagan vs. Christian Greatness (vv. 25-27)

*"It shall not be so among you."*

The world's view of "greatness" often includes:

But Jesus's view requires:

*"Whoever would be great among you must be your servant." (v. 26)*

Greatness in the kingdom looks like a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_, not a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Gospel of Suffering and Sacrifice (vv. 28)

*"... the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Jesus is not just our example—He's our \_\_\_\_\_.

His greatest act of service wasn't foot-washing. It was \_\_\_\_\_.

He gave His life as a **ransom**—a payment to free us from sin and judgment.

**My response today:**