

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:

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