



MATTHEW 20:20-28

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favour of him.

21 "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

22 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

23 Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and **to give his life as a ransom for many.**"

NOTE TO LEADERS

1. We have extended our Flourish early bird discount to Sunday the 15th of May - a final chance to get your full conference tickets at the price of R250.
2. We will be hosting a water baptism on the 29th of May. If anyone in your group has not yet been baptised and would like to, please recommend that they attend our water baptism teaching on the 22nd of May after the 9am or 6pm service.

START TALKING

1. What were you challenged by in Sunday's message?
2. What is the best example of service you've ever experienced?

START THINKING

1. Read Matthew 20:20-23. If Jesus were to ask you, "What do you want?" how might you answer him? What have you been praying for recently?
2. Read Matthew 20:25-28. Explain the difference between whom God considers to be great as

compared to whom the world considers to be great. Give examples or applications to illustrate the point.

START SHARING

1. It has been said that people don't remember what you say but what you do. Which person in your life is a good example of servant leadership? How did they impact your life positively?
2. On Sunday, Jax said true service involves surrendering to the Master's will. This is the pathway to Biblical greatness. What is one area in your life that you find most difficult to yield to Christ's guidance and control?

START PRAYING

Thank You Jesus, for the example you set of serving, helping, and laying down Your life. We pray that You would help us be those who serve - not so with us! Thank you, Father, that You'll use us to impact our community through serving You.

START DOING

This week, look for opportunities to serve others. Start with those closest to you, in your home and or workplace.



This Sunday, Jax Wimble shared a message from the story of the mother of Zebedee's sons, James and John, which is found in Matthew 20:20-28.

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favour of him. 'What is it you want?' he asked. She said, 'Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.' Matthew 20:20-21

These young men had been followers of Jesus for a while by this stage, and their mom probably saw her gap. She wanted her boys to be next to Jesus. It seems like a pretty good idea, and she wasn't asking for herself, she was looking out for her boys.

But Jesus responds: **'You don't know what you are asking,'** Jesus said to them. *'Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?'*

'We can,' they answered.

Jesus said to them, 'You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.' Matthew 20:22

They don't fully grasp what Jesus is talking about and don't understand what He is about to do. They're after a position of power rather than fully understanding what greatness is

Just in case we think it was just James and John and their mom who had got it wrong, in Matthew 20:24, we read: *when the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.* Why? Because they don't want to miss out, they also want to be great. And if we're honest, there is something of this in all of our hearts. It's so easy to get caught up in this kind of thinking - that greatness equals position and power, and we need to fight for that and make a way for ourselves in the world.

Jesus calls them all together: *'You know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.'* Matthew 20:25-28

They knew this. And then He says these 4 powerful words... **Not so with you.**

He's basically saying the world might have an idea about power and greatness, but if we are part of God's Kingdom, that's not how we do things: Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave *...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many'.*

Jesus came to teach us how to live differently! And His teachings and example have changed the world! No leader, before or after Him, was greater than Jesus. And yet He led from a place of serving others.

So many traditional views on life and leadership involve getting to the top of the pile so that you can be served. Nowadays, we definitely do hear more stories about some incredible leaders who use their power to empower others and how successful companies and businesses are who embrace that kind of leadership! But it all started with Jesus!!

Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen, a global restaurant chain, has an incredible story documented in their CEO's latest book, Dare to Serve. Cheryl Bachelder talks about how they went from being a company on the brink of disaster to one experiencing tremendous growth by every measure including profitability, expansion and customer

satisfaction, all because the leaders decided to flip a switch and become intentional servant-leaders.

This idea that Jesus put to His disciples was revolutionary. This idea that He clearly lived out was different from what they knew and the society they lived in. This kind of greatness, living to serve others, doesn't come naturally to us; it's something we need God's help to do.

Imagine how different our homes would be if all of us were looking for ways to serve one another? How would our workplaces and schools change if we were to serve each other, and look for ways to help each other?

So how do we become great?

1. Service requires SURRENDER.

Are we holding on so tightly to what we believe is best for our lives and those we love, or do we believe that God knows what is best for us? And that He will look out for us and for those we love.

Do we feel like our future, our reputation and our families are in our hands, or have we placed it all in God's hands, trusting him to work it out and take care of it all.

We can get so caught up in trying to make a way for ourselves, for our children - trying to secure a fortune or a future that we have in mind - that's usually when we end up getting this greatness thing mixed up.

In 1 Samuel, we see a great example in Hannah, who fully surrendered her child, Samuel, to God.

Unless we truly surrender who we are, the things that are important to us and the people that we love the most, we can never properly serve The Master.

2. Every slave has a Master.

Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave. Matthew 20:26 - 27.

If we truly want to be great in His Kingdom, we have to settle who the Master is in our lives. The Bible uses many words to describe our relationship with God. He is our Father, He is our friend, but this idea that He is our master is not always that easy to embrace.

I can't say I am a servant if I pick and choose when to listen to and obey Him. Do we ask The Master before we make decisions about what to do? Do we spend our time and energy on the things that The Master wants us to do?

3. Serving is something all of us can do!

'Everybody can be great because anybody can serve! You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.' Martin Luther King.

Do we actively look for ways to serve others?

To get better at serving, ask yourself (and others), 'How can I help you?' Imagine the impact on our community if we made this a way of life?

What kind of greatness are you pursuing in your life? Do you know who the Master is, and are you asking Him to direct your paths?