



Matthew 20:17-28

- Matt. 20:17 Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them,
- Matt. 20:18 “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death,
- Matt. 20:19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.”
- Matt. 20:20 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.
- Matt. 20:21 And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.”
- Matt. 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They said to Him, “We are able.”
- Matt. 20:23 So He said to them, “You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.”
- Matt. 20:24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.
- Matt. 20:25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.
- Matt. 20:26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.
- Matt. 20:27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—
- Matt. 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Observations & Discussion

1. Verses 17-19 **Self-sacrificing**

This isn't the first time that Jesus had told His disciples about what would happen to Him in Jerusalem.

Why do you think Jesus had to repeat Himself?

What is the lifestyle model that Jesus wants **you** to follow?

2. Verses 20-21 **Self-serving** (see Mark 10:35-38 for a full account)

Define "self-serving"

What does the request made by James, John & their mother tell you about their motives for serving Jesus?

Note the timing of their request—what does it tell you about their attitude toward Jesus?

What lesson can you apply to your prayer requests?

3. Verses 22-23 **Self-promoting**

The "cup" was a Jewish idiom meaning "to bear the consequence", & "baptize" in this context meant "to be immersed in, or to be overwhelmed with trouble."

What did Jesus mean when He told James & John "*you do not know what you ask*"?

What did Jesus mean when He told them that they would indeed drink His cup & be baptized with His baptism?

4. Verse 24 **Self-centered**

Why do you think the other 10 disciples were "greatly displeased" with James & John?

What does that tell you about the motives of the 10 disciples for serving Jesus?

5. Verses 25-28 **Self-less**

Jesus is pretty clear on the path to greatness in His Kingdom! What does it look like in your life to be the servant & slave to...

Your family

Your employer & fellow employees

Your church family