



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 20:17-28” on May 6 & 9, 2021

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed from Matthew 20:1-16 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 20:17-28

1. What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
2. How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
3. Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

MATTHEW 20:17–28 In this passage, Jesus and His disciples are going up to Jerusalem; He predicts His death a third time to the disciples, and He teaches them about greatness through serving others.

JESUS' PREDICTIONS OF HIS COMING SUFFERING AND DEATH: Look at the first, second, and third accounts of Jesus' telling the disciples of His coming death in Matthew 16:21-22, 17:22-23, and 20:17-19.

- Compare and contrast the wording of the three accounts and consider how the disciples responded to His words.
- After Jesus predicted His death this third time, His disciples became concerned with their own greatness in His kingdom; what were they missing, and why do you think they failed to understand the reality of Jesus' predictions?

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT GREATNESS: We all want to be great, and we all live in the tension between how the 'world' measures greatness and how Jesus measures greatness in this passage. Salome, mother of James and John, desired greatness for her sons in Jesus' kingdom – the reward of special seating closest to Jesus. In our human condition, we, too, may want a little of Jesus' glory, and we get caught up in the 'comparison game' for that glory!

- What are the greatest temptations for you to desire the world's view of greatness? How have your upbringing, our culture, and your own goals drawn you to those desires?
- What would you have to sacrifice or change in order to accept the reality of what Jesus is saying to us about greatness?

IN VERSES 22- 24, Jesus asks James and John if they can drink the cup He is going to drink, and they respond with a 'Yes.' In regard to 'the cup,' what do you think...

- What was Jesus referring to?
- What did the disciples think He was talking about?
- "The cup" means in your life right now as a follower of Jesus?

CONSIDER VERSES 26-28: Daniel used several phrases to describe what this might look like...he said, "Jesus is redirecting our desire to be greatest... In the kingdom of Jesus, worldly successes are not prerequisites...

There are some incredible servants of Jesus whose name we'll never know...Our Father celebrates what no one sees...

Suffering and hardship will happen to followers of Jesus when we live as citizens of the kingdom..."

- How do those various statements affect you in living out your life as a follower of Jesus?
- What are the greatest challenges to you at this time in your life to set aside the world's view of greatness and live out Jesus' words in these verses? What holds you back from being the humble servant Jesus describes?
- What could you do intentionally this week to outdo one another in LOVE?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

Pray for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.