

Jesus on the Way to Save the World

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BIG Idea: Jesus turns the world's priorities upside down, calling us to surrender our drive to be first and instead follow Him by serving others.

Application: Choose to put others first in practical, inconvenient ways this week, reflecting the heart of Christ through humble service.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2025.

<https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe25>

Matthew 19:13-15 (NIV) The Little Children and Jesus

Matthew 19:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ¹⁵When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

The disciples viewed children as less important, maybe even last.

Matthew 19:16-28 (NIV) The Rich Young Man and the Kingdom of God

Matthew 19:30 (NIV)

³⁰But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

Matthew 20:1-16 (NIV) The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

Matthew 20:16 (NIV)

¹⁶"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

God's generosity is not based on worldly wisdom.

Matthew 20:20-28 (NIV) A Mother's Request

Matthew 17:1-8 (NIV) The Transfiguration

Matthew 26:28 (NIV)

²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:17-19 (NIV) Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time

¹⁷ Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, ¹⁸ “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

Jesus, the only one who deserved to be first, would become the ultimate last, by taking all sin upon himself.

Become last, so others can become first.

Reflection

- **Why do you serve?**
- **How might your actions change if you truly put others first?**
- **Where is God calling you to serve at Lifehouse, at home, and in your community?**