



## Discussion Questions with Cody Dickerson

### Warm Up

- Have you ever been put in a position where you were asked to lead but didn't feel ready?
- What's something that makes you feel important or recognized in your daily life?
- When you were a kid what did you think it meant to be great?
- Who is someone you think of as great and why?

### Dig-In: Matthew 20:20-28

- In verse 21 the mother of James and John asks Jesus to give her sons positions of honor. What do you think motivated her request? How do you see people still chasing positions like this today?
- Jesus replies in verse 22 saying "You don't know what you are asking." What does this reveal about how we sometimes misunderstand greatness in God's Kingdom?
- How is Jesus' idea of greatness different from the world's idea?
- In verses 25–26 Jesus contrasts worldly leadership with servant leadership. What does it mean to "lord over" others? Why do you think Jesus calls us to lead by serving instead?
- In verse 27 Jesus says "Whoever wants to be first must be your slave." What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us about status and surrender? How does this challenge the way we usually think about success or influence?
- In verse 28 Jesus says He came "not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." How does Jesus' example shape your understanding of surrender and leadership? What's one area of your life where you could follow His example more closely?

### Wrap Up

- What's one way you can take the posture of a servant in a relationship or setting this week?
- Where in your life do you need to give up status or recognition in order to follow Jesus more closely?

### Ask

Lord, where, in my life, am I still chasing greatness by the world's standards? What would it look like to follow You into humble service instead?

# What you need to know: Matthew

In this section of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is NOT meeting expectations. He is Messiah, but He is not what they expected. The disciples are hearing about (though not really grasping yet) that this new Kingdom is an upside-down Kingdom. What they thought they knew or their assumptions about what the Messiah would bring is much different than the reality of Jesus. Their vision was a *conquering hero*. He is a *suffering servant*. And He is calling them to servanthood too.

For more background:

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/matthew-14-28>