



Introduction: What does _____ look like in your eyes?

Everybody probably has a different _____ on greatness depending on their worldview.

- **Biblical View of Greatness:**
- ***Cultural View of Greatness:***

As we approach our text in Matthew, we have a mother that is requesting that her two sons be placed in positions of greatness and authority in Christ's kingdom.

1. The _____ Request – 20:20-21

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 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."

Bear in mind that this is taking place right after Jesus had shared that He would be _____, condemned to death, and delivered to the Gentiles to be scourged and crucified (See [Matthew 20:17-19](#)).

One thing that I know about mothers is that they all want the best for their children, and sometimes it doesn't matter that _____ are flying to get their child noticed.

We see this in the areas of _____, drama, cheerleading, leadership, _____, pageants, school choice, and on and on.

2. The _____ Response – 20:22-23

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.” 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.”

Since this mother asked Jesus her question right after he talked about what was going to happen to Him in Jerusalem, He responds to her question based on His _____. Here is what Jesus tells her:

Next, Jesus provides them with a prophetic picture of their future. He says,

“You will indeed drink My cup and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with.”

How the Twelve Apostles _____ (Take Notes)

I would say that all the apostles indeed _____ from Jesus’ cup and were baptized with the baptism that Jesus was baptized with. They all faced their own suffering in this world.

Finally, notice that Jesus answers her original question:

“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.”

3. The _____ Reaction – 20:24

²⁴ And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.

Here we discover what the others were _____ when they heard what the mother of James and John asked Jesus? They weren't happy to say the least.

Here in verse 24, we are told that they were “greatly displeased.” The Greek means to be _____, greatly offended, or to be aroused to anger by what is perceived as unjust or inappropriate.

These two brothers didn't gain _____ in the eyes of the other apostles. They were disappointed with them. And I am sure that they made it known to them.

4. The _____ Redirection – 20:25-28

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. ²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—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.”

Jesus called His disciples to Himself and He taught them a spiritual lesson about greatness, a lesson that all of us also need to hear. Jesus shares great insights about true greatness:

1. _____ leadership (Greatness) – It's all about ME.

- *Rulers of the gentiles lord it over them.*

- *Those who are great exercise authority over them.*

2. _____ leadership (Greatness) – It’s all about OTHERS.

- *Whoever desires to be great among you, let him be your servant.*

True greatness according to Jesus is becoming a _____.

- *Whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave*

The Greek word for slave is δοῦλος (doulos), and it means slave, one who is owned by another and has no rights of their own. There is a message here for us believers!

Question: How _____ will you go?

- *Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

I have often said that people spell service in one of two ways:

- _____ Us
- _____

Conclusion: Allow me to bring this message to a close with a story that _____ what Jesus taught about true greatness.

The sign read:

“He has no _____ but ours.”

Missionary C.T. Studd once said, “Only one _____, ’twill soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last.” (Cambridge Seven)

Now go and live your life with His hands—because He has no hands but yours. This is the _____ of GREATNESS.