

Servanthood

Part 3 of the *I'm In* series

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September 11, 2016

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

Matthew 20:20-21

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered.

Matthew 20:22

Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just 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 20:23-28

Greatness isn't being wealthy, powerful, or famous, it's being a servant to others.

Greatness isn't attained by elevating yourself, it's attained as you deny yourself in order that you might serve others.

Serving principles...

- Servanthood is what Christ-like love looks like.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:12-13

- You were created to serve.

God created mankind in his own image. Genesis 1:27

- If you don't have the heart of a servant, one of the best ways to get one is to begin serving.

Next Steps

Take some time to evaluate whether or not you have the heart of a servant as reflected in the life of Jesus. Read Isaiah 53, Luke 4:18, & John 15:12-13.

Take some time to answer the following questions with your spouse, children, or small group...

- Read through Matthew 20:20-28
- Why do you think the other disciples were so upset when they heard about James & John's request? What did this reveal about their hearts?
- Of all the characters in the Matthew 20 story, who do you relate to the most and why?
- What are some obstacles that get in the way of you being more of a Christ-like servant?
- What are some areas that God has been leading you to serve in?
- How can we pray for you?