

Humility and Greatness (Matthew 20:17-34)

"²⁵ You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, **whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,** ²⁷ **and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--** ²⁸ **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."** (25-28)

Introduction

- Jesus' Final Journey to Jerusalem
 - Jesus and Twelve Disciples
 - Jesus and Kingdom Community
 - Jericho to Jerusalem
- The Rich Young Ruler vs. Two Poor Blind Men
- 20:1-16 Parable of Vineyard Laborers
- Disciples' Struggles (Rewards-19:28)
 - Thrones through Sufferings and Death (the Cross)
 - Longing for Significance/Greatness

Third Major Passion Prediction (20:17-19)

- “Behold” (18a; 30a)
- Messianic Secrets and 1st/2nd/3rd Prediction
 - 16:20-21; 17:22-23
- 3rd one is the most vivid/detailed prediction
 - "¹⁸ Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, ¹⁹ and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up." (NAS)**

Longing for Thrones (20:20-23)

- A Mother's Request (20-21)
 - "Then, the mother of the sons of Zebedee"
 - Salome [Mt 27:56, Mk 15:40, Jn 19:25]
 - The most ambitious but worst prayer request (21)
- Jesus' Response (22-23)
 - "You do not know what you are asking."
 - Drinking Jesus' Cup [Baptism cf. Mk 10:38] (22)
 - God's Sovereign Mystery (23)

Sufferings and Service (20:24-28)

- Other Disciples' Reaction (24)
 - “They were indignant at the two brothers”
 - “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” (18:1, 4) [cf. Dispute about Greatness Lk 22:24]
- Jesus' Kingdom Value and Example (25-28)
 - Worldly Greatness (25): the glory/power of Rome
 - **“Not so with you”** (26-27)
 - Great => Servant, First => Slave
 - **Jesus' Mission “to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many” (28; 1Pe 1:19) [1Co 13, Ecc 1:2]**

Healing Two Blind Men (20:29-34)

- Verse 29 “leaving Jericho” (Mk 10:46, cf. Lk 18:35 “entering Jericho”)
- “And behold, . . .” (30)
 - **“Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”**
 - **Asking, Seeking, Knocking:** “*but they cried out all the more*” (31)
- Jesus’ Compassion/Mercy and Healing (32-34)
 - **“What do you want me to do for you?”**
 - Significance of this Miracle [Spiritual Blindness]

Conclusion: Greatness of Service

- Loving/Redeeming Service (Incarnation)
 - Greatness of Humble Service
 - Christ's Example of Infinite Humility (Phil 2:5-11)
- Greatness of Self-Sacrificing Love
 - Self-Seeking vs. Self-Sacrifice
 - Power vs. Service
 - Security vs. Suffering
- God's Kingdom Value System (1Pe 5:5)
 - Two Symbols: "the Throne" vs. "the Cross" (Cup)