



Transformed: A New Way of Thinking, A New Way of Living

Matthew 20:20-28

Series Summary

We all want our lives to matter. But how do we know if we're doing the right thing? In a world where nothing is guaranteed, nothing is certain, you can build a life that can last. In the Bible, we can find practical guidance for everyday life as learn build a life that will last as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Theme Passage

Matthew 5:16 – In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Main Text

Matthew 20:20-28 (ESV) – ²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. ²¹ And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” ²² Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” ²³ He said to them, “You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.” ²⁴ And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Big Idea – Accomplishing Great Things for God Requires Selfless Service to the Savior

Three Lessons Learned from the Savior

Lesson #1 – Transformed Agenda: God's Plan is Greater than Your Good Intention

Matthew 20:20-21 (ESV) – ²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. ²¹ And he said to her, “What do you

want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom."

Lesson #2 – Transformed Thinking: God Must Become Greater and You Must Become Less

Matthew 20:22-24 (ESV) – ²² Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." ²³ He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." ²⁴ And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.

Lesson #3 – Transformed Living: Invest Your Life into Building Others Up for the Glory of God

Matthew 20:25-28 (ESV) – ²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The Greek word *lytron* ("ransom") was a term used frequently in non-biblical Greek to describe the purchase price for freeing a slave. This word connotes a purchase price whenever it occurs in the New Testament.⁷⁴⁷ "For" (Gr. *anti*) indicates the substitute nature of Jesus' death. The "many" for whom He would die could be the elect or all mankind (cf. Isa. 52:13–53:12).¹

Memory Verse

Matthew 20:28 (ESV) – Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Challenge:

You are called to consistently apply the divine principles and truths found in the Word of God. Take the next step in your study by (1) Discussing and applying the sermon with your small group, (2) Participating in a Sunday School class, or (3) Answering the questions that follow.

- How do you guard your life and faith against the pitfall of pride?
- What are the obstacles that often stand in the way of making the pursuit of "God's will" your primary pursuit?
- Explain the meaning of the phrase "To be Great then you must serve."
- What are three ways you can apply what you have learned from Matthew 20:20-28?

¹ Tom Constable, [*Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible*](#) (Galaxie Software, 2003), Mt 20:28.