

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JULY 29, 2020

MATTHEW 20:20-28

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Is it sinful to be ambitious? Is it wrong to want more?
  - a) The Bible teaches us to be ambitious. (1 Thess. 4.11)
  - b) The Bible warns about “selfish ambition” (Phil. 1.15,16; 2.3)
2. We are reading about the selfish ambition of two disciples who wanted to be great in the kingdom of God. [Read Matthew 20.20-28]
  - a) This was not a new problem. (Matt. 18.1; Mark 9.33,34)
  - b) Pride and selfishness will always create contentions. (Matt. 20.24)

### I. BREAKING DOWN THE TEXT

#### A. Position.

1. **MATTHEW 20.20:** *“Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons”*
  - a) Who were Zebedee’s sons? (Matt. 4.21; 26.37; Luke 5.10; Mark 3.16,17)
  - b) Who was Zebedee’s mother? (Matt. 27.55,56)
2. **MATTHEW 20.20:** *“came to Him with her sons kneeling down and asking”*
  - a) *“Kneeling down”* (proskuneo): Literally, “worshipping.”
  - b) *“Asking”* (aiteo): It carries the idea of begging for a favor. On-going action.
3. **MATTHEW 20.21:** *“Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.”* (Mark 10.35-37; Matt. 19.28)

#### B. Prediction.

1. **MATTHEW 20.22:** *“Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink”*
  - a) What is the “cup” Jesus would drink? (Matt. 26.39; John 18.11)
  - b) **MATTHEW 20.22:** *“and be baptized”* An immersion of suffering.
2. **MATTHEW 20.23:** *“You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with”* (cf. John 21.18; Rev. 1.9; Acts 12.1,2)

#### C. Confliction.

1. **MATTHEW 20.24:** *“And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased”*
2. Selfish ambition can cause contention. (Luke 9.46)

#### D. Disposition.

1. **MATTHEW 20.25:** The disposition of the Gentiles.
2. **MATTHEW 20.26-28:** *“But it shall not be so among you.”*

### II. APPLYING THE TEXT

#### A. We are called to suffer as Jesus suffered.

1. **MATTHEW 20.23:** *“You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with”*
2. To suffer as a Christian is to share in the sufferings of Christ. (1 Pet. 2.21; 4.12,13)

#### B. We are called to serve as Jesus served.

1. **MATTHEW 20.27:** *“let him be your slave”*
2. **MATTHEW 20.28:** *just as the Son of Man did not come to be served”*
  - a) *“Served”* (diakoneo): To be an attendant, a table-server.
  - b) *“Ransom”* (lutron): To loosen. The idea is to be freed from debt.
3. To serve as a Christian is to serve as Christ served. (John 13.12-17; Phil. 2.5-7)