

How to be Great in the Kingdom of God Matthew 20:20-28

I. The Way of the W_____ (vs. 20-25)

- a. Jesus is still answering His disciples' question from chapter 18:
"Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matt. 18:1, 3-4ff; cf. Phil. 2:3-12)
- b. C_____
 - i. "to plan secretly and dishonestly for something to happen that will be to your advantage" (Cambridge Dictionary)
 - ii. **the mother of the sons of Zebedee** = Salome the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus (cf. Matt. 27:56; Mark 15:40; 16:1; John 19:25)
 1. So, James and John were most likely Jesus' cousins
 - iii. **came to Jesus** = they planned this and wanted to keep it secret
 - iv. **bowing down and making a request of Him** = not worship but currying favor (Mark 10:35)
 - v. **sit one on Your right and one on Your left** = thrones of honor and authority (cf. Josephus *Ant.* 6.235-238; Matt. 19:28)
 - vi. Jesus answered like a compassionate teacher (Matt. 5:10-12; cf. Ps. 16:5; 23:5; 75:8; 116:13; Isa. 51:17-23; Jer. 16:7; 25:15-28, 49:12, 51:7; Lam. 4:21-22; Ezek. 23:31-34; Hab. 2:16; Zech. 12:2; Matt. 26:39, 42; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42; John 18:11; 2 Cor. 4:17; Rev 14:10; 16:19; 17:4; 18:6)
 - vii. **We are able** (cf. Luke 22:34)
 - viii. **My cup** (cf. Matt. 16:24ff; Luke 9:23ff; Acts 12:2; Rev. 1:9)
- c. C_____
 - i. The disciples continuously argued over who was the greatest (cf. Luke 22:24; Matt. 18:1; Mark 9:33-34)
 - ii. **"¹⁶ So the last shall be first, and the first last."** (Matt. 20:16)

- d. C_____
 - i. **lord it over = katakyrieuō (κατακυριεύω)** = "rule over, lord it over" "overpower, gain dominion over, subdue" (cf. Mark 10:42; 1 Peter 5:3)
- e. C_____
 - i. **great men = megaloi (μεγάλοι)** = "important persons, great men, high status" (cf. 2 Tim. 4:3-4)

II. The Way of the K_____ (vs. 26-28)

- a. **²⁶ It is not this way among you** = we are IN the world, but not OF the world (cf. John 17:16)
- b. S_____
 - i. **diakonos (διάκονος)** = "a person who renders service—'servant'" (cf. John 13:4-5ff; 1 Peter 5:1-3)
- c. S_____
 - i. **doulos (δούλος)** = "slave," "pertaining to a state of being completely controlled by someone or something—'subservient to, controlled by'" (cf. Matt. 25:21; Luke 17:7-10; Rom. 1:1; 14:8; 1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
 - ii. **"so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."** (Rom. 12:1-2)
- d. S_____
 - i. **ransom = lytron (λύτρον)** = "ransom, price of release for someone under the control of another" ...(cf. Ex. 30:12; Lev. 17:11; Ps 49:7-9; Isa. 53:4-5, 10-12; John 1:29; 15:13; Rom. 5:8; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Heb 9:22; 1 John. 3:16)