

# Big Serve

## Matthew 20:20-28

*“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life - a ransom for many.” - Matthew 20:28*

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**Main Point:** Jesus came to serve, and we can share Him with others when we serve

**Introduction:** Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

*When it comes to opportunities for service in the church, are you more apt to say “Yes, I will” or “No, I won’t”? Why?*

*What is the dirtiest job you have ever done? Are you willing to do it again? Why or why not?*

*Describe a time when someone served you in a profound way, doing something for you that you absolutely did not want to do. How did that make you feel?*

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We live in a culture that constantly encourages us to “look out for No. 1,” to put ourselves first, and to do whatever it takes to get ahead. We value the idea of the self-made person. We like to think that we are self-sufficient, that we don’t need the service of others. If we are honest before God, however, none of us got to where we are solely on our own effort. There have been countless people around us who took on lesser roles to serve us, and our lives were never the same. Throughout His ministry and in His death, Jesus showed us what it means to serve others, and today the love of Christ calls us to serve each other as He has served us.

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**The three phases one might go through in figuring out how to live well are:**

1) **MISSING THE BIG PICTURE**. Have a volunteer read **Matthew 20:20-21**.

Do you think James and John (the sons of Zebedee) knew their mom was going to ask Jesus this question? Do you think they put her up to it? Why or why not?

What kinds of things might have been on their mind that led them to make this request for greatness?

What was the reaction of the other ten disciples when they heard about this request? What does this reaction suggest about what was in their hearts? What does **Jeremiah 17:9** say about our hearts?

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2) **UNDERSTANDING GREATNESS HAS A COST**. Read **Matthew 20:22-24**.

What “cup” was Jesus referring to? Read **Matthew 26:39** where Jesus refers to it again. What was going on in this passage?

Read **Matthew 23:5-7** and **Mark 12:38-41**. How was “greatness” most commonly demonstrated or pursued in Jesus’ culture?

How is “greatness” defined in our culture today? What does Jesus say about true greatness? Read his words in **Matthew 18:4**, **Matthew 19:30**, and **Matthew 23:11-12**, **Luke 22:26**.

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3) **DISCOVERING THAT SERVING OTHERS THE KEY TO BEING GREAT.** Read **Matt. 20:25-28**.

What does love require when it comes to serving others and seeking greatness? Read **Matthew 25:31-40** and discuss how God’s love for us affects our hearts and attitude about serving.

Read **Romans 12:3**. If we are going to serve like Jesus, why must we think of others as better than ourselves? How did Jesus exemplify this attitude?

What is one area of your life in which fear motivates you to think of yourself instead of others first? In your job? Your friendships? Your finances? How is that holding you back from being great in God’s kingdom?

**Apply It:**

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What are some ways we can better serve together as a group? What are some needs we might look to meet?

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**Pray:**

Praise Jesus for His humility and willingness to serve. Pray that we would reflect on the gospel daily and serve others because of the love Christ has shown us. Invite Him to show you how you might reflect His character better this week as you look to set aside “I want” for “I will.”

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**Coming up at VillageChurch:**

**March 31st** - Easter Eggstravaganza (Sign up to work a station; fill goody bags and click eggs!)

**April 1st** - Easter Sunday (VillageKids Choir singing)

**April 22nd** - BIG Tent Revival

**May 13th** - Mother’s Day: Baby Dedication, VillageKids Choir singing