

## LEADERSHIP ≠ LORDSHIP.

Matthew 20:20-28

*Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. <sup>21</sup> 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." <sup>22</sup> 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." <sup>23</sup> 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." <sup>24</sup> And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, <sup>28</sup> even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

### Insights on Leadership:

- Obsession with **advancement** blinds us to things more important than our own agenda – 20:20-21

*Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. <sup>21</sup> 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."*

- Mother of James and John requests the highest place of honor for her two sons – 20:20-21

- Background of 20:17-19: Jesus lays out the shocking details of His impending suffering... a much greater matter!

- If you've never had power and strongly desire it you may not **know** what you're actually asking for – 20:22

*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."*

- The cup most often represents an experience of suffering (Psa. 11:6; 73:10; 75:8; Isa. 51:17, 22; Jer. 25:15–28; Ezek. 23:31–34; Matt. 20:22, 23; 26:39; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42; John 18:11; Rev. 14:10. Of consolation, Jer. 16:7. Of joy, Psa. 23:5. Of salvation, Psa. 116:13.)

- Jesus asks them if they are ready for leadership and they quickly say yes... but they ran when everything hit the fan.

- If your mind is set on a position or title it's a sure sign you're not ready for it, but a commitment to serve however and wherever regardless of a title indicates you are prepared to lead.

- **Promotion** and **demotion** come from the Lord – 20:23

*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."*

- Pursuing power or **refusing** to let it go **pushes** people away – 20:24

*And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.*

- Worldly leadership centers on **domineering** others whereas **Christ**-centered leadership is defined by serving others – 20:25-28

*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. <sup>26</sup> It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, <sup>28</sup> even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

"We must be thankful to all the people who have helped us, we must honour them and love them. But never, never pin your whole faith on any human being; not if he is the best and wisest in the whole world. There are lots of nice things you can do with sand: but do not try building a house on it." - C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*