

THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW

Date: March 17, 2024

Key Scripture: Matthew 20:20-28

The Greatest, We Never Know

A servants heart ...

1) Recognizes any authority we have is from God.

John 19:10–11 ... *"So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."*"

2) Uses power for God's kingdom.

John 18:36 ... *"Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."*"

3) Gives up our desires for the benefit of others.

Philippians 2:3–5 ... *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,"*

Questions to Consider

- 1) What positions of authority or power has God given to me?
- 2) In what ways do I recognize that God has given these positions to me?
- 3) What are three ways I can use my power and authority to build up God's kingdom?
- 4) What desires am I currently giving up for the benefit of others? Am I doing this joyfully or with a negative attitude?

Scripture to Pray

"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed ... Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling."

Psalms 2:1-2, 10-11

From the Resources

"Jesus himself provides the perfect example of servant leadership (v. 28a; cf. esp. John 13:1-17). Few models are more desperately needed in an age of celebrity Christianity, high-tech evangelism and worship, and widespread abuses of ecclesiastical power for self-aggrandizement or, more insidiously, in the name of "attracting" more people to the gospel—a "gospel" that is thereby badly truncated."

Craig Blomberg - *New American Commentary*