

I am the Greatest! (Matthew 20:17-28)

Introduction

- What do people typically want to be?
- What instead is the standard in Jesus' kingdom (remember v16!)?
- What does Jesus do in v17-19?
- What is therefore so striking about Mrs Zebedee's request in v20-21?

i No greatness without ... suffering (v20-23)

- What does Jesus mean by "the cup" in v22?
- So what is he saying he must face?
- What, then, is his point in asking the question of his disciples?
- Which other verses show that suffering comes before glory?

i)

ii)

- What have we, in the West, largely lost a sense of?
- How does this impact our Christian lives?
- Are you willing to suffer for Jesus' sake?
- How do James and John answer Jesus' question?
- What does Jesus say will be true of them in v23?
- How was this fulfilled?
- What is encouraging about this?
- What made the difference to them?
- How can this encourage us?

ii No greatness without ... service (v24-28a)

- What does the reaction of the other disciples in v24 show about them?
- What does Jesus say is the attitude of the world in v25?
- What is the attitude of his kingdom (v26-27)?
- Who is the great example of that (v28a)?
- Why did Jesus deserve to be served?
- What should our response to this be?

iii No greatness without ... sacrifice (v28b)

- What can be true of “respectable” Christianity?
- How does Jesus compare with that?
- Note down six awful things Jesus knew he was about to suffer from v17-19?

i)

ii)

iii)

iv)

v)

vi)

- What raises his sacrifice to an even higher level?
- So what should we be willing to give?
- Which passage from another Gospel teaches that?
- What must you do if you are not a Christian?
- What should you do in communion if you are a Christian?