

" Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:25-28 (NIV)

True Greatness

Admit it, you have this desire within you. I have what desire within me? **You have the desire to be great in you.** That is an interesting thought. I suppose I do have the desire to be great in me. Is that a bad desire? I'm not sure. I know I would never go around telling people I want to be great. That would seem prideful and self-centered, of that I have no doubt. But should I desire to be less than great? Should I desire to be average or even below average? That doesn't seem like sound thinking to me either. **It's not. Do you know why you have the desire to be great in you?** Yes, that would be very helpful. **I created you to have the desire to be great in you. Is that shocking? Does that sound off and incorrect in some way?** Yes, it does, I have always thought the desire to be great and being prideful were one and the same. I know for sure that you do not want me to be prideful. You want me to live a life of humility. **Yes, that is true. Let me ask you a few questions.** I'm listening. **Do you think I lived a life of greatness? Did I think and say and do great things?** No one has or ever will live a more important life filled with greatness than you. **Did I live a life of greatness as the world would define it, or do you think I redefined greatness?** You redefined greatness. You were humble. You took on the form of a servant. You lived to serve others in all that you thought, said, and did. You went where your Heavenly Father guided you. You did what your Heavenly Father asked of you. You bore fruit for His Kingdom and brought glory to His name. You served Him and others with all that was within you. In that way, you lived a life of true greatness far exceeding any worldly definition of greatness. **Yes, I did. Let's get back to you. What about you? Will you live the same life of greatness? Will you do what I did? Will you live as I lived? Will you follow my example? Will you become like me in all that you think and say and do? Will you serve me and others with all that is within you? Will you live the life of true greatness that I have laid out for you?** Yes, I will. **That will be very good.**

Lord, thank you for redefining true greatness. I want to be great, by your definition. I want to live as you lived. I want to do what you did. I want to serve others in all I think, say, and do. Help me to bear fruit for your kingdom as I live to serve you and others. Amen

Promises*Be Your Servant*

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

NIV

Matthew 20:25-28

Promises*Be Your Servant*

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

ESV

Matthew 20:25-28

Promises*Be Your Servant*

But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

NLT

Matthew 20:25-28

Promises*Be Your Servant*

But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

NKJV

Matthew 20:25-28

Promises*Be Your Servant*

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

NRSV

Matthew 20:25-28

Promises*Become A Servant*

So Jesus got them together to settle things down. He said, "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around, how quickly a little power goes to their heads. It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage."

MSG

Matthew 20:25-28

Promises*Be Your Servant*

And Jesus called them to Him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men hold them in subjection [tyrannizing over them]. Not so shall it be among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, And whoever desires to be first among you must be your slave— Just as the Son of Man came not to be waited on but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many [the price paid to set them free].

AMP

Matthew 20:25-28

Promises*Be Your Servant*

But Jesus called them together and said, "Among the heathen, kings are tyrants and each minor official lords it over those beneath him. But among you it is quite different. Anyone wanting to be a leader among you must be your servant. And if you want to be right at the top, you must serve like a slave. Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many."

TLB

Matthew 20:25-28

Promises*Be Your Servant*

But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them. "It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

NASB

Matthew 20:25-28

Promises*Serve The Rest Of You*

Jesus called all the followers together and said, "You know that the rulers of the non-Jewish people love to show their power over the people. And their important leaders love to use all their authority. But it should not be that way among you. Whoever wants to become great among you must serve the rest of you like a servant. Whoever wants to become first among you must serve the rest of you like a slave. In the same way, the Son of Man did not come to be served. He came to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many people."

NCV

Matthew 20:25-28

Be Your Servant

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – Matthew 20:25-28

In Context: Read Matthew 20:25-28

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:25-28 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you for redefining true greatness. I want to be great, by your definition. I want to live as you lived. I want to do what you did. I want to serve others in all I think, say, and do. Help me to bear fruit for your kingdom as I live to serve you and others. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What kind of example has the Lord set before you to follow?

What will those who want to be great, according to the Lord, do for others?

How different is the world's definition of greatness versus the Lord's definition of greatness?

How has Jesus Christ redefined what constitutes true greatness in the way He thought, spoke, and acted?

Why is being great, according to the Lord's definition, a highly desirable goal?

How are you making it your goal to follow Christ's example by serving others?

What fruit is your life bearing for the Kingdom of God because you are following Christ example by serving others?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Follow the Lord's example by serving others in all you think, say, and do.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you can live a life of greatness by following the Lord's example of serving others.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are following the Lord's example by serving others.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you follow the Lord's example by serving others.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will follow your example by serving others.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I follow your example and serve others today?
