



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Today God's Mercy Calls Us from selfish to selfless March 22, 2020

Matthew 20:17–28 ¹⁷ Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, ¹⁸ “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!” ²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. ²¹ “What is it you want?” he asked. She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.” ²² “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered. ²³ Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.” ²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ 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.”

1. If you had knowledge of the future, would it change the way you are thinking and acting today? If so, in what ways?
2. In addition to our text, Jesus had told his disciples what would be happening to him in Jerusalem on two other occasions. How did the disciples react each time? (See: Matthew 16:21-23; 17:22)

3. James and John persuaded their mother to ask a favor of Jesus. What is it that they wanted? Why did their fellow disciples become angry with them?
4. As we deal with the coronavirus, we see people hoarding supplies and food. How does this make you feel and why?
5. Jesus says that the people of this world live for themselves (vv. 25-26). To his disciples then and now he says, “Not so with you.” Explain how those words convict us of sin.
6. In what ways are we Christians hypocrites?
7. “...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” How do these words assure us that God forgives our selfishness, hypocrisy, and all our sin? (cf. Romans 8:1)
8. How/Why, does Christ’s selfless sacrifice free us to be selfless?
9. Name some ways we can show love to each other in the midst of our current circumstances.