

JESUS, OUR RANSOM
(Matthew 20:20-28)

- I. The PERSISTENCE of Worldly SELF-INTEREST (Matt. 20:20-24)
 - A. The PRESUMPTION of James and John, expressed by their MOTHER (20:20-21; cf. Mk. 10:35)
 1. Came showing RESPECT (Mt. 20:20a)
 2. Began with a GENERAL request (20:20b)
 3. Asked for positions of PRIORITY in the KINGDOM (20:21)
 - B. The EXPLANATION of JESUS (20:22-23)
 1. Pointed out their IGNORANCE (20:22a)
 2. Asked if they were ABLE to “DRINK the CUP” He would drink (20:22b)
 3. Heard their AFFIRMATION (20:22c)
 4. AGREED that they would DO SO (20:23a)
 5. Told them the positions they REQUESTED were not HIS to GIVE (20:23b)
 - a. PREDETERMINED by the sovereignty of the Father
 - b. Independent of personal AMBITION

- C. The INDIGNATION of the OTHERS (20:24)
 - 1. RESENTED their PRESUMPTION
 - 2. SHARED their AMBITION (cf. 18:1; Lk 22:24)

II. The PARADOX of Godly SELFLESSNESS (Matt. 20:25-28)

- A. Human DELUSION concerning GREATNESS
 - 1. Measured by POLITICAL POWER
 - 2. Measured by the number of PEOPLE under their AUTHORITY
- B. Divine INVERSION of human EXPECTATION
 - 1. Greatness measured by HUMBLE SERVICE
 - 2. Priority established by WILLING SLAVERY
- C. Christ's DEMONSTRATION of the PRINCIPLE
 - 1. Came to SERVE, not to BE SERVED
 - a. Implies His RIGHT to be SERVED
 - b. Indicates His INTENTION to BENEFIT us
 - 2. Came "to give His LIFE a RANSOM for [the] MANY"
 - a. Indicates PURCHASE of our LIBERTY
 - b. Indicates SUBSTITUTION for our PENALTY
 - c. Indicates MANY, but not ALL, will be SAVED