

EXPERIENCING THE KING LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

THE STUDY OF MATTHEW



Do You Want to be Truly Great?

Matthew 20:17-34

Ps Lim Wei-en

THREE QUESTIONS

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- What is true greatness? (17-19, 26-28)
- What keeps us from true greatness? (20-28)
- How is true greatness lived out? (29-34)

WHAT IS TRUE GREATNESS? (17-19, 26-28)

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Matthew on “greatness”

Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called **great** in the kingdom of heaven. (5:19)

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone **greater** than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is **greater** than he. (11:11)

Something **greater** than the temple (12:6)...
Jonah (12:41)... Solomon (12:42) is here.

Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have **great** faith! Your request is granted.” (15:28)

Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the **greatest** in the kingdom of heaven. (18:4)

WHAT IS TRUE GREATNESS? (17-19, 26-28) →

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True Greatness is found in **the Way of the Cross**

¹⁸ “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be **delivered over** to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will **condemn** him to death ¹⁹ and will **hand him over** to the Gentiles to be **mocked and flogged and crucified**. On the third day he will be **raised to life!**” (20:18-19)



WHAT IS TRUE GREATNESS? (17-19, 26-28)

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What is **the Way of the Cross**?

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.” (20:26-27)



WHAT KEEPS US FROM TRUE GREATNESS? (20-28) →

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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." (20-21)



WHAT KEEPS US FROM TRUE GREATNESS? (20-28) →

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Fear-ridden Insecurity.

²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” (19:28)

WHAT KEEPS US FROM TRUE GREATNESS? (20-28) →

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Fear-ridden Insecurity.

⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them. (Luke 9:53-55)



WHAT KEEPS US FROM TRUE GREATNESS? (20-28) →

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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.** (20:25-26)

HOW IS TRUE GREATNESS LIVED OUT? (29-34) →

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Through Compassionate Acts of Service to Others.

²⁹ As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. ³⁰ Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

³¹ The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” (20:36-31)

HOW IS TRUE GREATNESS LIVED OUT? (29-34) →

EXPERIENCING THE KING
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Through Compassionate Acts of Service to Others.

³² Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

³³ “Lord,” they answered, “we want our sight.”

³⁴ Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.





Let Jesus Serve You

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION



EXPERIENCING THE KING
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1. What attracts you to Jesus' model of true greatness?
2. In what way do you identify with James and John in their desire to get ahead of the rest?
3. Where in life do you struggle with the way of the Cross (self-giving service)?
4. How can you let Jesus serve you in the coming week? What difference might that make to the way you serve others?