

## **REACHING FOR GREATNESS**

### **MATTHEW 20: 20-28**

Introduction;

This passage brings the human and the divine into sharp contrast; it lets us see the difference between the way of the world and the ways of God. Jesus is following the divine path to greatness—it is the way of faithful obedience to the will of the Father regardless of the cost; drinking all of the cup that the Father gives you. James and John are reaching for greatness after the ways of the world. They are trying to get ahead of the other disciples in procuring a prominent place in the kingdom, and they will seek it by asking for it, taking advantage of a relationship to advance themselves.

Without rebuking them directly, Jesus does confront their misguided reach for greatness. When their reach for greatness after the course of the world produced division and conflict, as it always does, the Lord gave them this important lesson in how to reach for greatness in the kingdom of heaven. He does not reject their reach for greatness, but rather he re-directs it. He guides them away from a worldly way to seek greatness to the heavenly way.

I would encourage you seek kingdom greatness, but I would encourage you to follow the path that Jesus walked, to do it His way.

I. GREATNESS COMES TO THOSE WHO SERVE OTHERS IN WAYS  
THAT DO THEM GOOD.

This is the life of the diakonos.

II. GREATNESS COMES TO THOSE WHO SURRENDER THEIR  
RIGHTS TO OTHERS FOR THEIR GOOD.

This is the life of the dolous.

III. GREATNESS COMES TO THOSE WHO GIVE THEMSELVES FOR  
THE GOOD OF OTHERS.

This is the life of the Savior.

“Others, Lord, yes others. Let this my motto be!”