

# **Matthew 20:17-34**

February 9, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

## **Intro -**

**Matthew 20:26** - "Whoever desires to be *great* among you, let him be your *servant*."

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## **1. To be great--monitor your motives.**

**v. 20** - Then the mother of Zebedee's came to Jesus with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 21He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these 2 sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

**Matthew 19:28** - "When the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

**v.24** - When the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.

**Philippians 2:3-4** - Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this attitude be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.

**Steve Farrar talks about how God did it with him:** *"God sometimes chooses to deal with our selfishness by giving us someone to care for who is infinitely more selfish than we are. Babies are not only the cutest creatures on the face of the earth; they are by far the most selfish. The way God deals with my own selfishness is to give me someone to serve who has zero interest in serving me... Not too many people in the world could out-selfish me one-on-one. But every time we've had a baby, I've*

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*met my match. Each of my kids resembled me. I don't mean they looked like me, I mean they were as selfish as me. That meant that somebody in the family was going to have to grow up."*

**Phil. 4:19** - My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory.

**Jeremiah 29:11** - "I know the plans that I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans for your welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."

**Jeremiah 29:4, 10** - Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were *carried away captive*, whom I've caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon... After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I'll cause you to return.

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## **2. To be great--expect the unexpected**

**v.22** - Jesus said, "You don't know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I'm about to drink?"

**v.18** - "Behold, we're going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be *betrayed* to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they'll *condemn* Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to *mock* and to *whip* and to *crucify*. And the third day He'll rise again."

**Romans 8:17** - We share in His *sufferings* so that we may also share in His *glory*.

**2 Cor. 4:17** - Our light and momentary *affliction* is producing for us an eternal *glory* that is far beyond comparison.

The Christian life is filled with paradoxes--things you wouldn't expect.

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**When we're weak we're strong.**

**To gain you must give.**

**We see unseen things.**

**We conquer by yielding.**

**We find rest under a yoke.**

**We reign by serving.**

**We're exalted when we're humble.**

**We become wise by being fools for Christ's sake.**

**We're made free by becoming servants.**

**We live by dying.**

**He who knew no sin became sin for us.**

**v.22** - "Are you able to drink the cup that I'm about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I'm baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So He said to them, "You'll indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I'm baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left isn't Mine to give, but it's for those for whom it's prepared by My Father."

**Acts 12:1-2** - About that time King Herod began to persecute some believers in the church. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

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### **3. To be great--don't follow the crowd.**

**v.25** - 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.”

**Schweitzer:** *"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know; the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."*

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### **4. To be great--follow the Master.**

**v.28** - "Just as the Son of Man didn't come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

**Galatians 6:2** - Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.

**v.29** - Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!” Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!” So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” They said to Him, “Lord, that our eyes may be opened.” So Jesus had *compassion* and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they *followed Him*.