

9: Posture, Not Position

Accompanies the 3/7/2021 Sermon

BIG IDEA

God calls us to daily give our lives in service to others, by seeking a posture of servant over a position of master. As disciples, it means we acknowledge the posture of our heart and mind and choose not to follow the ways of the world that seeks after positions of power, prestige and persuasion.

GETTING STARTED

Use the following questions to break the ice and begin your group discussion together:

- *Have you experienced a moment where all eyes in the room were on you? What was the situation? How did it happen? How did you feel? What were the circumstances? How did it turn out? Did you want all of the eyes on you or not, and why?*
- *Tell the story about a time at work, school, hobby, or volunteer position that you sought out a greater role than the one you had? What was the position you were trying to attain? Why did you want it? How did it go, did you get the position, and why or why not?*

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpacking its meaning.



Have someone in your group **read Matthew 20:20-28**.

- What do you know about the book of Matthew? Who was it written to and why did Matthew write it?
- What is Matthew's main point? Summarize it in your own words.



The CONTEXT of Matthew:

Matthew is one of the four Gospels (or "Good News" Biographies about Jesus). Matthew was written primarily to a Jewish audience, trying to emphasize that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah. Matthew's

Gospel is full of Old Testament promises being fulfilled in Jesus, and it comes to the climax of Jesus fulfilling the promise of salvation. It ends with the charge for the disciples and followers of Jesus to go and make more disciples of Jesus that they too would experience God's salvation and joy in and through Jesus (and in turn go and make more disciples).

- In verses 20-23 Matthew tells the story of the mother of James and John (mother of 2 of the disciples of Jesus) requesting of Jesus positions for her sons. What are the positions that she asks for, and what do you think these positions would mean for her and her sons?

- Jesus states that they do not understand what they are asking for, and then he asks them if they can drink from the cup that he is going to drink from. What do you think it means to drink from the cup that Jesus would drink from? (if you need help seeing what Jesus is pointing to look at what Jesus said back in Matthew 10:37-39, it has to do with reigning with Jesus, but also suffering with Jesus)

- In verses 24-28 Jesus address all of the disciples in their response to what James and John's mother had asked for. How did the disciples respond? How does Jesus change the conversation from position to posture? What is Jesus' point in changing their perspective and motivation? (read verse 28 as part of the conclusion to this question after others have answered)

GETTING PRACTICAL

Discuss the following questions together as a group, giving particular thought to how we are called to live based on what the Scriptures have said.

1. What do you think about this call to give your life in service to others? Does this seem attainable in our day and age? Why or why not?

2. What might it look like for us to seek a posture of service over seeking a position of power, prestige and persuasion? How is this different from the ways of our western world?

3. Practically speaking, what does it look like for you to LIVE for Christ, DIE to Self, and Give your life in service to Others in light of this passage?