Decide or Default: Who Will I Serve? Matthew 20:20-28 ADBC 5-30/31-21

Transition Scripture

Matthew 20:20-28 - 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."
²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"
"We can," they answered.
²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."
²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 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. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ 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."

Group Discussion Questions

Starter: Do you know someone who excels at serving? Describe his or her life.

Go Deeper
1. Read Matthew 20:20-23
2. Do you think people still ask to be Jesus' favorites? Do people expect preferential treatment at church? Why do you think this is?
3. James and John still do not get that God's Kingdom is not about power and authority. In your opinion, is this still a struggle for Jesus followers today?
4. Read Matthew 20:24-28
5. Jesus invites his followers to forget power games and become servants and slaves. How would you explain these concepts to someone?
6. To follow Jesus means to be like him – and thus to serve, not be served. How well do American Christians do at this? What could we do to improve?
7. Jesus says he came to be the ransom for many. What does it mean to you that Jesus paid a price for you to have an opportunity to be in relationship with the Father?