



Week 9: Matthew 20:17-34

The Suffering Servant will Die as a Ransom

The Big Idea:

Jesus is the suffering servant who dies to take God's judgement on himself to ransom many. Who Jesus is shapes the lives and values of those who follow him.

Introduction

What do you people wished Jesus would do for them?

- 1. As you read Matthew 20:17-28, look for themes that have come up already in Matthew?** (Greatness, first & last, death & resurrection, following)
 - What did you notice?
- 2. What does Jesus tell us about himself?**
 - Have a look at Isaiah 53:4-12, what does this add to who Jesus is? (How does this Isaiah quote feature in Matthew 20?)
- 3. How should this passage shape our view of greatness?**
 - If you had to teach Jesus' greatness to kids, what would you want to them to get?
 - Chapter 19 showed us the impossibility of entering the Kingdom without God. How does this passage help us see how God makes it possible?
 - How does the image of the cup add to this (see Isaiah 51:17?)
- 4. How does this passage encourage us to live as followers of Jesus?**
 - When does servanthood feel unattractive? What help does this passage give? What steps could you take to value being a servant?
- 5. How does this passage help us see more of who Jesus is and what he has done?**
 - What are the truths could you reflect on as we head into Easter?
 - How could you reflect on this on your own or with others this Easter? (Meal times, quiet times, as we gather together, the moments we can take to teach kids or reflect with others)

Pray

Bonus

How is that James and John will drink the cup?

They too will suffer like Jesus. Not under the judgment of God but as those who like Jesus serve while being rejected by the world to see God's plan for salvation to move forward.

"We know not what we ask, when we ask for the glory of wearing the crown and ask not for grace to bear the cross in our way to it" (Matthew Henry).

Why might have Matthew chosen to include the story of the blind men?

- What hope does it give us about those who seem blind to Jesus today?