

WEEK 8 THE HABIT OF SERVING

August 27, 2017

But 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. ²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." **Matthew 20:25-28 (NKJV)**

THE PROBLEM—PURSUING SIGNIFICANCE YOUR OWN WAY

*Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. ²¹ And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." ²² But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." ²³ So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father." ²⁴ And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. **Matthew 20:20-24 (NKJV)***

SELF-SERVING

We are either self-serving or God-serving

Thoughts of self—"after all I have done for you"

Expecting anything in return for you service

UNEXAMINED PRIORITIES

On a mission but not one of divine priority

Jesus was on a mission

Not my mission

The will of He who sent me

Serve God, serve others

Give my life as a ransom

THE REAL ISSUE IS SERVING OUT OF GODLY MOTIVATION

The motive is in verse 28, "*just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*"

How did Jesus serve? HE HEALED

HE FED

HE GAVE LIFE, SIGHT, AND HEARING

HE SHOWED COMPASSION

HE IS THE SAVIOR

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

THE CHALLENGE—STRAIGHT-UP LIVING

VERTICAL RATHER THAN HORIZONTAL