

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Careful What You Wish For* (Matthew 20:17-28)

**Summary:** Humble service is the way to greatness in Christ's kingdom. Cut down your pride and serve like the King.

### **Cut down your pride by remembering...**

#### **1. Your King Came to be Humiliated (vv. 17-19)**

- In Matthew 20, the disciples of Jesus still weren't fully aware of the King they were following and what He would ultimately accomplish at Calvary. How can we be like the disciples and 'forget' who our King is and what He came to do? What does this forgetfulness lead to? What does Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 tell us about our King's humiliation and its purpose? How should this change our daily thoughts and actions?
- How does understanding Christ's mission and the way it was accomplished affect the way we should understand our mission as Christians in the world? In the face of hardships brought about by the world, how can we as believers be a great witness of our King? Where does an understanding of Christ's humiliation intersect in our view of hardships?

#### **2. Glory Comes by Suffering (vv. 20-23)**

- Prominence in God's Kingdom comes by suffering. How does Jesus redirect the desires and expectations of the disciples in vv. 20-23? Why is this a good reminder for your own heart?
- Do you suffer as a believer? What might such suffering look like? Read Phil 1:27–30 and 1 Peter 4:12–19. With the Philippians, 1 Peter, and Matthew passages in mind, how should we consider suffering and its purpose? Think of the suffering you might be experiencing ... How does Jesus want you to understand its purpose? How might you encourage another believer with this truth?

#### **3. Greatness Comes by Serving (vv. 24-28)**

- What is the ultimate example of service? How does the cross and what it represents prepare our hearts to serve? How have we been enabled and gifted to serve? What other passages speak to this 'one-anothering'?
- Service in the Kingdom looks like serving others in the Kingdom. We especially see this in the local, visible gathering of God's people. How do you serve at GBC? Why do we serve one another at GBC? Why would being a GBC member matter? Has your pride gotten in the way of service? Considering Matthew 20, what does Jesus say to those whose pride is preventing them from service?
- Where are the needs at GBC? How can you help meet these needs?