

A Man and His Goals

April 20, 2005

Matt 20:25-28 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. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – 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.”

SUMMARY:

While Jesus was teaching the Cross, the disciples were focused on a Crown. When our focus becomes intent on the goals we are tempted to use any means necessary to achieve it. Not so with Jesus. He teaches Humility. Jesus wants us to keep our focus on the means by which we achieve our goals. He says, to be first you must serve, and to be great you must be a slave. It's OK to have a Crown as your goal, but never forget, there's a Cross to carry before there's a Crown to wear. If we focus on the Cross, Jesus will be waiting with our Crown.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: How did Jesus say true greatness is to be achieved? How did Jesus practice what he preached?

Discussion:

- How difficult is it today for a Humble man to achieve his goals in such a selfish society?
- In verse 24, it says the other disciples became indignant when they heard of the request. Why does such a request cause such turmoil in the fellowship?
- As men of God, should we avoid lofty goals?

APPLICATION:

Are your goals in the Will of God? Ask yourself a couple of questions.

- 1) Do your goals make you easier to live with? Or, are the relationships around you strained because of what you seek?
- 2) Do your goals make you more like Jesus? Are your goals costing you anything?

ON YOUR OWN...

Matt 20:20-28
Philippians 2:1-18