

Origin

TRANSFORMATION
Apr. 2, 2006

From Self to Servant:

Matthew 20:20-28

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

"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."

"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.

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."

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 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."

GREATNESS AMONG GENTILES

- The disciples understood power and greatness as it had been modeled to them by the Roman Empire.
- Power was exercised through the military and the fear it created.
- Authority came from the top to the bottom.
- The greater the title the more power an individual had.
- In the Gentile world humility was not a virtue; it was considered to be degrading.

GREATNESS AMONG JESUS' DISCIPLES

- Greatness is based on service!
- Diakonos = "servant."
- Jesus emphasizes his point in verse 27 by using the word "doulos" translated "slave."
- Jesus' ethics for leadership and power in His community of disciples are revolutionary!