

**MAIN POINT:** Life in the kingdom is lived in union with King Jesus and follows in his footsteps—to ascend we must descend as humility precedes exaltation.

**BROUGHT LOW THROUGH ASCENDING (vv. 20-24)**

- A “Simple” Request (vv. 20-21)
- A Cup to Drink (vv. 22-23)
- Ten Angry Disciples (v. 24)

**LIFTED HIGH THROUGH DESCENDING (vv. 25-28)**

- Gentile Tyrants and Their Greatness (v. 25)
- The Superiority of Servants and Slaves (vv. 26-27)
- A Ransom Price to Redeem a People (v. 28)

**Suggested Reading:**

*Redemptive Reversals and the Ironic Overturning of Human Wisdom* by G. K. Beale

**Next Week's Preaching Text:** Matthew 21:1-11

**Sermon Questions for Matthew 20:20-28**

1. How does Matthew's flow of thought from 19:13-20:28 shed more light onto vv. 20-28 in particular?
2. What cup is Jesus referring to in Matthew 20:22-23? How does that cup connect with the cup of the Passover (Matt. 26:27-29) and the cup Jesus describes in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36-46)?
3. Why do you think the other ten disciples were so indignant with James and John?
4. How is greatness amongst the Gentiles described in Matthew 20:25? How does our culture today define greatness?
5. What does greatness look like in the kingdom of God (cf. Matt. 20:26-27)?
6. Why is the ransoming work of Jesus necessary for saints to live according to a kingdom ethic?