

Discussion Guide
Here & Now: wk4 A Mother's Request
March 10, 2024



Big Idea

Kingdom of God citizens use their influence and leadership to serve; not be served.



Icebreaker

Share an observation &/or application from this past week's reading plan.



Discussion Questions

1. Seasoned throughout this week's sermon was the realization that Jesus displayed a lot of patience in dealing with his disciples. This included things like when they did not understand what he was saying &/or when they behaved, or spoke, in ways contrary to what he was teaching and showing them. Can you share a specific teaching of Jesus that he has been patient with you regarding (maybe something it has taken you a significant amount of time to learn or that you've had to relearn again and again)? What does God's patience with you reveal regarding His feelings for you?
2. Read Matthew 20:20-21. When James' & John's mom was asking Jesus to give them positions in his kingdom, what kind of kingdom did she have in mind? As, perhaps, a praying parent or just regarding your prayers for anyone that you care about, how can you pray in a manner that aligns with the will of God; the goal of the Christian life? What are ways you maybe have prayed, or can be tempted to pray, that fall short of those?
3. In the sermon it was referenced how in Matthew 19 Jesus told the disciples that they would each have a throne of authority in his Kingdom. How does Matthew 20:20-21 (read in previous question) reveal that they are not satisfied, or content, with that? Do you ever struggle with feeling discontent with where God has you, and if so, how? What is a healthy way in which to handle this feeling? Read Matthew 23:11-12. What role does humility play in this?
4. Read Matthew 20:22-23, Matthew 20:17-19, & Isaiah 51:17-23. All of these passages refer to "the cup of God's wrath". What is "the cup of God's wrath"? Who deserves it and why? Who took it and why? How is understanding all of this a key to understanding Jesus' mission on earth?
5. Read Matthew 20:24-28. Recap together the differences Jesus points out here between the type of leadership common to the world and the type of leadership desired in the Kingdom of God, here & now. You have leadership opportunities wherever you have influence. Thinking of work, home, and community where & with whom do you have influence? How can you lead in a more Kingdom-like manner here & now? How & when will you start?



Concluding Question

Kingdom Leadership/Influence releases power; empowers others; puts others first; serves others over being served. Considering that, where have you seen leadership/influence used in such ways where it has worked to put the Kingdom of God on display well?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

Pray for success with our Heart Check Donation Drive happening through Sunday, 3/17.