20:17-34

- **Review…**
  - FIRST - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**
  - SECOND – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
  - THIRD - The Rejection of the King - **Matthew 19-25**
  - Get to work…
    - Jesus gave a Kingdom Parable about a DAYS wage…
    - The master went hired men in the morning [6am] to go work in His VINEYARD…
    - He went back out at 9am - 12pm - 3pm - and 5pm - each time sending more out to work…
    - Because the HARVEST is plentiful - but the WORKERS are few - **Matthew 9:37**
  - First and Last…
    - When the HARVEST was done [6pm] the laborers were called in to get their salary…
    - Those who had ONLY worked ONE hour - were paid the same as those who worked ALL day…
    - This caused some to COMPLAIN - they thought they deserved MORE…
    - But there was only ONE reward - and everyone got the SAME amount [first shall be last]
    - Because it is not about what we GET [crown] - it is about what we go to GIVE [Gospel]!
- **1st - To the Cross… vs. 17-19**
  - 1st - Final Trip… vs. 17
    - Now Jesus going up to Jerusalem!
    - Jerusalem is about 750 meters above sea level - higher than everything else around…
    - So no matter where you are coming from - you always go UP to Jerusalem!
    - This no doubt seemed like an ordinary trip for the Disciples…
    - They were traveling to the Holy City to celebrate just as they did every year - **Exodus 23:14-17**
    - As they went to sacrifice their LAMB to remember how God delivered them from Egypt…
    - No doubt they went up SINGING the SONGS of ascent - **Psalms 120-134**
    - **Psalm 122:1** - "I will lift up my eyes to the hills… My help comes from the LORD."
    - What the DISCIPLES did NOT realize - this was the FINAL trip for Jesus…
    - Because He was going to be the LAMB that was sacrificed to set them free!
  - 2nd - The Plan… vs. 17-19
    - Nothing hidden… vs. 17-18
      - [Jesus] took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them:
      - Behold we are going up to Jerusalem!
      - Jesus took the TWELVE aside - because He wanted them to UNDERSTAND…
      - LOOK [imperative] - they were going up to Jerusalem but this time would be DIFFERENT…
      - This is HUGE - because it means Jesus considered them as FRIENDS!
      - **John 15:15** - "No longer do I call you servants - for a servant does not know what his master is doing - but I have called you friends for all things… I have made known to you."
      - God does NOT leave us in the dark when it comes to His plans…
      - He calls us FRIENDS - and therefore tells us EVERYTHING…
      - The question is are we paying ATTENTION to what He says!
    - Crucified… vs. 18-19
      - The Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes.
      - And they will condemn Him to death.
      - Deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify!
      - Jesus KNEW He would be BETRAYED [παραδίδωμι] - and WHO would do it [Judas]

- He KNEW the chief PRIESTS [Caiaphas] and SCRIBES would condemn Him to death…
- They would BETRAY [παραδίδωμι] their KING - and turn Him over to PAGANS…
- He KNEW those GENTILES would mock [Herod] and SCOURGE [Pilate] Him…
- And He KNEW that in the END - they would CRUCIFY Him - **Psalm 22:16**
- Yet in spite of all He KNEW - Jesus still was willing to go UP to Jerusalem!
- Because He also KNEW there was NO other way for us to be SAVED…
- We are all SINNERS - and it is IMPOSSIBLE for us to get to heaven - **Matthew 19:26**
- Therefore the ONLY answer was for Him to be the LAMB who died to save us!
- **II Corinthians 5:21** - "God made Christ who never sinned - to be the offering for our sin - so that we could be made right with God."

▪ Resurrected… vs. 19
- And the third day He will rise again!
- But Jesus also KNEW - the story did NOT end with His CRUCIFIXION…
- Because on the THIRD day - He would [indicative] RISE again!
- The GOOD news is NOT that Jesus died - everybody does…
- The GOOD news is the DEATH is NOT the end - through Jesus we have VICTORY!
- **I Corinthians 15:55-57** - "O Death where is your sting? Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

- **2ND - BECOMING THE GREATEST… VS. 20-28**
  - 1st - Wrong question… vs. 20-22
    ▪ Ulterior motive… vs. 20
    - Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons.
    - Kneeling down and asking something from Him!
    - Then the MOTHER of James and John [sons of Zebedee] came to Jesus…
    - She WORSHIPED [προσκυνέω] Him - because she wanting Him to do a FAVOR…
    - Her BOYS followed up by asking Jesus to do WHATEVER they asked!
    - **Mark 10:35** - "Teacher we want You to do for us whatever we ask."
    - Too often people come to Jesus with the wrong mindset…
    - They think if they WORSHIP - if they are at CHURCH on Sunday - then God owes them…
    - Then they can ask ANYTHING they want - and He has to say yes!

    ▪ Selfish wish… vs. 21
    - [Jesus] said to her: What do you wish?
    - She said to Him: Grant that these two sons of mine may sit.
    - One on Your right hand and the other on the left in Your kingdom!
    - Jesus asked her [and the BOYS] - what was their WISH [θέλω]
    - She [they] wanted to SIT [subjunctive] on the right and left hand of Jesus in the KINGDOM!
    - If we think of God as some kind of GENIE - rub the lamp we He will grant our WISH…
    - We are going to be very DISAPPOINTED with the results…
    - God does NOT grant WISHES - He is our LORD - we do what HE wants…
    - And if we come to Him with SELFISH desires - God make me RICH - silence will be His reply!
    - **James 4:3** - "You ask [but] you do not get it because your motives are all wrong!" [NLT]

    ▪ Missing the point… vs. 22
    - Jesus answered and said: You do not know what you ask!
    - Jesus was quick to point out the FLAW in their WISH…
    - They did not SEE [εἴδω] what their WISH would cost them!
    - We might acknowledge that SELFISH prayers do NOT get answered…
    - But what about SELFLESS prayers - healing a sick friend - why does GOD still NOT answer…
    - Yet that sick friend we want healed - might ONLY come to Jesus because of their TRIAL!

- We do NOT know what will happen to tomorrow - we do NOT see the END…
- That is why prayer is NOT about coming to God with our WISHES…
- It is about us coming to the Lord [master] asking Him for His WISDOM!

o 2nd - Counting the Cost… vs. 22-23
  - The Cup…
    - Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink!
    - Jesus asked them if they had the POWER [δύναμαι] to do TWO things:
    - FIRST - take the CUP that Jesus was going to Jerusalem to DRINK…
    - The CUP that Jesus was talking about was the WRATH of God - **Revelation 14:10**
    - Because someone had to PAY the price for SIN!
    - When Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to PRAY to the Father…
    - His simple request was for the LORD to take this CUP [wrath] from Him…
    - But in the end Jesus concluded with - NOT My will but Yours be done - **Luke 22:42**
    - He could have walked away at any point - and avoided death…
    - But Jesus was OBEDIENT to the WILL of God – and offered His life for our SINS!
    - **Hebrews 5:8** - "He was a Son - yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered."
  - The Baptism…
    - And be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?
    - SECOND - did they have the POWER [δύναμαι] to be BAPTIZED…
    - The BAPTISM Jesus was talking about - was His DEATH on the cross!
    - The picture of BAPTISM is DEATH - being BURIED under the water…
    - But it is also a picture of new LIFE - coming up out of the water!
    - **Romans 6:4** - "We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead… even so we also should walk in newness of life."
  - Everything… vs. 22-23
    - They said to Him: We are able! So He said to them:
    - You will indeed drink My cup - be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with!
    - James and John were quick to foolishly reply - they had the POWER [δύναμαι]
    - But they were NOT thinking about WRATH [cup] and DEATH [baptism]
    - More likely they were thinking about DINNER [cup] and a BATH [baptism]
    - Yet Jesus ominously told them they would indeed choose [deponent] to DRINK His cup…
    - And in the end they would [passive] be BAPTIZED [die] for His name!
    - James would become the FIRST of the apostle to be MARTYRED - **Acts 12:2**
    - And although John would live to be an old man - he gave his life for the Lord!
    - We come to the Lord - NOT to get what we want [because we do NOT know what is best]
    - We come instead choosing to LAY down our will - and instead SUBMIT to His…
    - We come to DIE to ourselves - and chose to LIVE for Jesus…
    - Because we know that NEW life only comes when the Lord is the one in control!

o 3rd - Jealousy… vs. 23-24
  - The Father… vs. 23
    - To sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give.
    - But it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father!
    - Jesus does NOT choose who will SIT on His right and left…
    - Because it is the FATHER - who CHOSE [perfect] Jesus to SIT on His RIGHT hand!
    - **Mark 16:19** - "Jesus… was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God."
  - Not happy… vs. 24
    - When the ten heard it - they were greatly displeased with the two brothers!
    - When the other TEN disciples heard the conversation - they were DISPLEASED…
    - DISPLEASED [ἀγανακτέω] - to be VERY unhappy…

- They were JEALOUS of the request of James and John…
- Because they likely wished they had been the ones to ask it FIRST!
- Do NOT miss the FOOLISHNESS of this whole conversation…
- Jesus had just told the DISCIPLES that He is heading to the CROSS…
- Which James and John completely missed - and instead started talking about THRONES [sit]
- And in the END it caused JEALOUSY among the disciples…
- All because they did NOT understand why Jesus was going to Jerusalem!
- UNITY in the church comes from when we all LISTEN to Jesus…
- DIVISION in the church comes from when we seek after what we WANT!
- **James 4:1** - "What is causing the quarrels and fights? They come from [your] evil desires!" [NLT]

o 4th - Called to Serve… vs. 25-28

- Repeated lesson… vs. 25
  - Jesus called them to Himself and said:
  - Jesus called the DISCIPLES to Him - seeing the opportunity to REPEAT an important lesson…
  - This is the SECOND of THREE times He had to teach this lesson…
  - The final time they would argue this would be AFTER the last supper - **Luke 22:24**
  - God is VERY patient with us - He is willing to REPEAT lessons [as many times as needed]
  - But there is WISDOM in paying attention to what God is trying to teach us…
  - Because we will NOT grow - until we grasp the lesson the Lord is trying to give to us!
- Heavenly greatness… vs. 25-27
  - You know the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them.
  - And those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you.
  - But whoever desires to become great among you let him be your servant.
  - And whoever desires to be first among you let him be your slave!
  - In the WORLD [ἔθνος] - those who RULE - will lord [κυριεύω] it over others…
  - And those who are GREAT [μέγας] - have POWER over others [ἐξουσιάζω]
  - But it must NOT [οὐ] be that way in the CHURCH…
  - If we want [θέλω] to be GREAT [μέγας] - we MUST [imperative] be a SERVANT [διάκονος]
  - If we want [θέλω] to be FIRST [πρῶτος] - we MUST [imperative] be a SLAVE [δοῦλος]!
  - GREATNESS in the world is like a PYRAMID – with the most powerful on TOP…
  - But GREATNESS to God – flips the PYRAMID upside down!
  - We do NOT relate a SLAVE with GREATNESS – we still think like the WORLD…
  - GREATNESS to us is MONEY - and POWER - telling others what to do…
  - GREATEST to God is the person who empties the trash - cleans the bathroom…
  - The question is do we want to be GREAT in the world - or in God!
- The Greatest of all… vs. 28
  - Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served - but to serve.
  - And to give His life a ransom for many!
  - Jesus has every right to be SERVED [διάκονος] – He is God almighty…
  - But He did NOT [οὐ] come to be SERVED [passive] - but to SERVE [active]
  - He came to be our RANSOM [λύτρον] - pay the DEBT for our SIN…
  - Which is why Jesus is the GREATEST in the kingdom!

- **3RD - OPENING EYES… VS. 29-34**

o 1st - Prideful city… vs. 29

- Now as they went out of Jericho!
- Jericho sits at the north end of the Dead Sea - near the Jordan River…
- It was a PROUD city - known for its formidable walls…
- But those walls FELL - because in their PRIDE they refused to LISTEN to God - **Joshua 6:20**

- It is NOT an accident that this PRIDEFUL debate of the disciples took place in this city…
- Because when we do NOT listen - moved by PRIDE - it always leads to RUIN!
- **Proverbs 16:18** - "Pride goes before destruction - and a haughty spirit before a fall."

o 2nd - Be quiet… vs. 29-31
- Two men… vs. 30
  - A great multitude followed Him - and behold two blind men sitting by the road.
  - When they heard that Jesus was passing by cried out saying:
  - Have mercy on us - O Lord - Son of David!
  - Jesus was moving with the CROWD as they made their pilgrimage to Jerusalem…
  - Matthew tells us there were TWO blind men sitting [ignored] beside the road…
  - But Mark gives us the name of the ONE who spoke - BARTIMAEUS - **Mark 10:46**
  - BARTIMAEUS - His name means the son [בַּר] of the UNCLEAN [טָמֵא]
  - He cried out [κράζω] - begging [imperative] Jesus to have MERCY [ἐλεέω] on them…
  - He called Him Lord [κύριος] - and Son of David [Messianic title]!
- Crying out…
  - Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet.
  - But they cried out all the more saying: Have mercy on us - O Lord - Son of David!
  - The CROWD was NOT happy with them - and told them they should [subjunctive] be QUIET…
  - But all the more the CRIED out [imperfect] - asking for MERCY!
  - We are all UNCLEAN [טָמֵא] - and none of us have a RIGHT to call out to Jesus…
  - And the world will be quick to REMIND us of our FLAWS…
  - When we PRAY to Jesus - they question WHY would God answer us…
  - But all the MORE we should be CALLING out to Jesus - because He is MERCIFUL!

o 3rd - Following Jesus… vs. 32-34
- The question… vs. 32-33
  - Jesus stood still and called them and said: What do you want Me to do for you?
  - They said to Him: Lord that our eyes may be opened!
  - Jesus STOPPED - and asked them what was their WISH [θέλω]
  - They did NOT want [θέλω] to SIT on His right hand or on His left…
  - All they wanted [θέλω] - was for the Lord [κύριος] to open their EYES so they could see!
- Answered prayer… vs. 34
  - Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes.
  - Immediately their eyes received sight - and they followed Him!
  - Jesus had MERCY [σπλαγχνίζομαι] on them - and touched their eyes…
  - IMMEDIATELY their eyes were opened - they could SEE Jesus…
  - And as a RESULT - they began to FOLLOW Him - to the CROSS!
  - **Luke 9:23** - "If anyone desires to come after Me let him deny himself - and take up his cross daily - and follow Me."
  - We do NOT come to Jesus so we can ask for ANYTHING we want…
  - We come to Jesus because we are UNCLEAN - we are BLIND - and we want to SEE…
  - We want to SEE Him - so we can DENY ourselves - and LIVE for God…
  - Because the Christian walk is NOT about being the GREATEST…
  - It is about showing people Jesus - who loves us so much - He died to SAVE us!