



"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

– James 4:6

Pride is the preeminent sin in the Scriptures. All sin feeds and exposes the pride of man.

To be great, we must be willing to serve all men, even if it costs us our lives.

### I. A Bizarre Request

- The request comes from James and John – the Sons of Thunder (Mark 3:17).
- They want to have a prime seat in the Kingdom.

### I. A Bizarre Request

- Their request was likely based on the family relationship that they had with Jesus.
- In a royal court, sitting on the right and left were the places of highest honor.



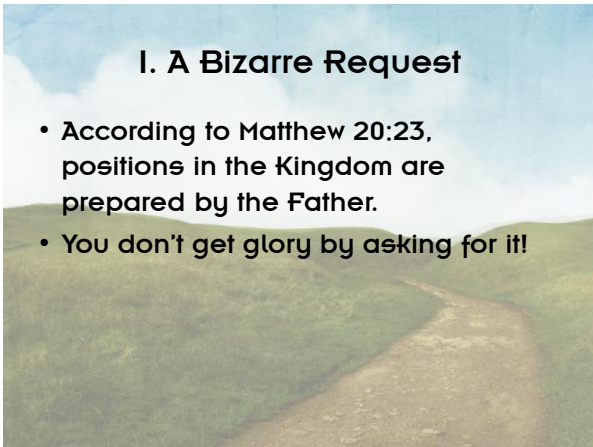
## I. A Bizarre Request

- The cup that Jesus speaks of in vs. 38 is a reference to judgment and suffering.
- Baptism here carries the idea of being flooded or overwhelmed with calamity.



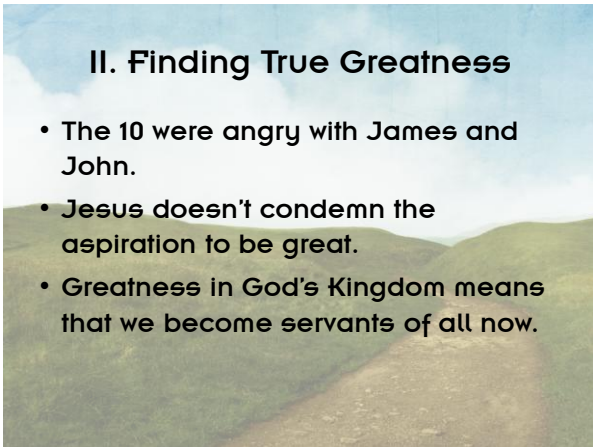
## I. A Bizarre Request

- Jesus was willing to finish the cup as He headed to Jerusalem, and He was willing to be overwhelmed in the baptism of suffering as He headed to the cross. His question to James and John was if were they willing too.



## I. A Bizarre Request

- According to Matthew 20:23, positions in the Kingdom are prepared by the Father.
- You don't get glory by asking for it!



## II. Finding True Greatness

- The 10 were angry with James and John.
- Jesus doesn't condemn the aspiration to be great.
- Greatness in God's Kingdom means that we become servants of all now.

### III. The Greatest Example

- Vs. 45 is one of the clearest statements in the Gospels concerning the reason Jesus came.
- “The subjects of the Kingdom must submit to the life of a slave, but the King submits to the death of a slave.”

### III. The Greatest Example

- Jesus, through His death on the cross, paid the penalty for our sins and set us free from sin's power.