

**Discussion Starter** – How do you define greatness for yourself and others? How has your definition of greatness changed because of your relationship with Jesus?

### **Jesus Foretells His Death** (Matthew 20:17-19)

- Jesus had just taught about the kingdom rewards to the disciples who followed Him. Now He speaks prophetically of the things that are going to happen to Him in the next week. What are the seven prophetic statement Jesus declares in this passage? How do the disciples respond to Jesus? How should they have responded?
- How do we know that Matthew did not make this up? After all, these things had happened as he wrote this book long after these events occurred. What prophetic biblical support do we have prior to and after Matthew's account that described these events before they occurred?
- Why do you think Jesus repeated this prophecy so often? Did this prophecy benefit the disciples? If you think they did describe how and when.

### **A Mother's Request** (Matthew 20:20-28)

- Which of the disciples are the sons of Zebedee? What does her request reveal to us in the context of what Jesus has just been speaking about?
- How does Jesus respond to the mother's request? What did Jesus mean by asking if these two disciples were able to drink from the cup He was going to drink and be baptized as He would be baptized? What can we learn from how Jesus responds in this situation?
- How did the disciples predetermined paradigm influence how they responded to Jesus' question? What was the disciple's paradigm and how did it hinder them?
- What was wrong with the disciple's response? What character trait were they revealing here?
- What are some of the predetermined paradigms we have in our life that can hinder us as Christians? If the disciples had this problem with Jesus what does that tell us about our relationship with God?
- What role does the character trait of humility play in our relationships and our leadership of others? What are some of the consequences of a lack of humility can have in our lives?
- Read Proverbs 18:13 and Matthew 26:55-56. What insights do these two passages give us on humility? What is the key ingredient in true humility? What are some of the things you have gone through that have humble you?
- Describe in your own words how Jesus spoke to His disciples and what we can learn from this example to apply it in our relationships with others?
- How is greatness measured in God's Kingdom? How might you re-think your view of greatness and your next steps to achieve it, particularly after hearing last week's message on rewards?