

## Thursday, August 7

Read Matthew 20:20-28 once again. There were two problems with believing oneself as great. One danger is living a life of illusion. We've all heard of the soccer mom who believe that their child needs to play every minute of every game or the baseball dad that yells at the coach wanting his child to play in a certain position they deem more important than others. This is sometimes the fodder for comics and late-night TV hosts.

The simple fact is we all need to come to terms in understanding our gifts and graces. How can we best nurture our children toward their greatest avenue of success? How do we help them identify their strengths while incubating within them the skills to advance and utilize their strengths? If we knew the answers to these questions, there wouldn't be so many books on parenting. At some point we have to become adults and deal with our strengths and recognize our limitations. What do you think? Meditate on these concepts and write your thoughts here.

## Friday, August 8

The second problem with greatness is confusion about the true meaning of greatness. For Jesus, the true measure of greatness is service. And Jesus lived his life, gave his life in service to humanity. That is what he meant when he told Salome, James and John "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." Jesus sensed that they are confused about what they are getting into, and he makes clear that the path to glory goes straight through the wilderness of suffering. Many want to be a physician but don't really appreciate the years and academics required for such a career. What challenges have you faced and overcome to be in the career you have or to enjoy the blessings of your labor. Give praise to God as you write you reflections here.

## Message Notes August 3, 2025

### *Women of the Bible*

### *Salome – Mother of the Sons of Thunder*<sup>\*</sup>

- I. Salome, the mother of the disciples \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, approached Jesus and asked a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Salome made a \_\_\_\_\_, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your \_\_\_\_\_."
  - B. She was seeking expressions of \_\_\_\_\_ for her sons.
  - C. After all, according to Mark's Gospel, Jesus had already bestowed upon James and John the \_\_\_\_\_ "Sons of Thunder." (Mark 3:17)
  - D. Seeking greatness in any arena of life can be commended, if that greatness involves seeking \_\_\_\_\_, meaning and purposeful \_\_\_\_\_.
- II. Enough of the Sons of Thunder; just \_\_\_\_\_ is this woman, Salome?
  - A. According to Edith Deen, "Next to His own mother, the \_\_\_\_\_ mother to cross Jesus' path during His ministry was the mother of the disciples James and John."
  - B. Salome is specifically mentioned \_\_\_\_\_ in the Gospel of Mark (Mark 15:40 and 16:1)
    1. Salome may have been \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus than indicated by these two mentions of her name.
    2. Many scholars believe the woman mentioned as Jesus' mother's \_\_\_\_\_ is none other than Salome.
    3. Add the observation that a woman who approached Jesus with such a request concerning her sons, must be \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.

---

<sup>\*</sup>Matthew 20:20-28

III. There are \_\_\_\_\_ to be learned here; \_\_\_\_\_ not just for Salome and her Sons of Thunder but for all the disciples and for us as well.  
A. The first is a life of \_\_\_\_\_.

B. The second issue of believing we are great is \_\_\_\_\_ about the true meaning of greatness.

C. Jesus makes it clear that \_\_\_\_\_ to humanity is the true measure of greatness.

IV. The truth is that none of us is the \_\_\_\_\_, but we serve a \_\_\_\_\_ God.

A. "\_\_\_\_\_ can be great," said Martin Luther King Jr., "because \_\_\_\_\_ can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

B. Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. \_\_\_\_\_ for James. \_\_\_\_\_ for John. \_\_\_\_\_ for any one of us.

## ***Daily Devotional Guide***

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, August 4**

Have you ever encountered someone who really believe they are the greatest? They may have truly believed that they were better than all others or at least more deserving of privileges. Often, these people find themselves in conflict with others, as they

demand their privilege, want what they want before others get what they deserve or need. These are extreme descriptions and perhaps we all have some sense of greatest in some realm of life, however, to think of ourselves better than others is not a Christian ideal. (Philippians 2:3) What do you think? Write your thoughts here.

### **Tuesday, August 5**

Read Mark 3:13-21. Here we read the words of Jesus as he nicknames the brothers, James and John, as Sons of Thunder. This wasn't necessarily a positive nickname, possibly implying the zeal and loyalty they had for their Rabbi and Savior, Jesus. Rather, it refers to impetuosity of the brothers, especially James. James was a bit of a hothead. This name Jesus bestowed upon the brothers was definitely an indication that he knew them well, possibly revealing that they are his cousin or at least a relative of some sort. What do you think of when you hear Sons of Thunder? How does this nickname relate to the fact that James and John, along with Peter were in Jesus' inner circle of disciples? Write your ideas here.

### **Wednesday, August 6**

Read Matthew 20:20-28. Here we read the words of a mother who wants the best for her sons and how she wants them to be honored with places of honor. Is Salome being unreasonable in this request? Isn't this what all parents, mothers in particular, want for their children? What's your experience with your parents or with your children? What guidance have you received from your parents or given to your children that will help them achieve a certain degree of status and respect? What experiences have you had or witnesses of not so helpful guidance from parents? Contemplate these questions and write your reflections here.