



Dwelling in the Word

Prayerfully read Matt 19:16-20:34 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

Beginning the Conversation

1. Which of the four interactions resonated most with you: the young man, the disciples asking about rewards, the disciples asking for prominent positions, or the two blind men? Why?
2. In each interaction people asked Jesus for something. Consider your own prayer life and what you typically petition God for; are there any parallels to the passage?

Digging Deeper *(pick some of the following questions to discuss as a group)*

1. After reading Matthew 6:19–24. Consider your family of origin and the spoken or unspoken assumptions on money and economics that were present. How do you think this framework affects your *current* philosophy and theology of money? In what ways does the Matthew 6 passage challenge you or encourage you?
2. Read over the parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16). What is your first instinctual reaction to the passage? Why do you think it is so difficult for people to relax in the generosity of God; and celebrate God's "undeserved" goodness toward others?
3. Jesus made it very clear to the disciples that attitudes and actions of 'one-upmanship' are not legitimate in God's kingdom (Matthew 20:25-28). In contrast, most human societies are based around hierarchical leadership structures. Have you experienced working with others where servant leadership was the norm, if yes, what was it like? Alternatively, have you experienced working with others, where leadership was 'lorded over' people, if yes what was that like?
4. In what *specific* ways can the two blind men near Jericho be role models for us in discipleship? (Matthew 20:29-34)

Living it Out

1. Jesus completely inverts the human ideals of achievement, rewards, greatness, and success in the passage. Are there areas in your life where your personal ambition to succeed may be eclipsing your commitment to humbly follow Jesus? Could you courageously name these areas?
2. Ask God to help you submit these areas to him, and allow God's Spirit to transform your definitions of success into God's definitions: self-emptying, grace as a gift, servanthood, and holistic wholeness through relationship.
3. What is one way this week that you could enact the servanthood that Christ himself embodied and asks of his disciples?

4 Interactions

Young Man
(19:16–22)



Disciples
(James & John)
(20:20–28)

Disciples
(Peter)
(19:23–20:16)



2 Blind Men
(20:29–34)

Jesus' interaction with the Young Man
(19:16–22)



Christ and the Rich Young Ruler, Heinrich Hofmann.

Jesus' interaction with the Disciples (Peter)
(19:23–20:16)



The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, Lambert Jacobsz.

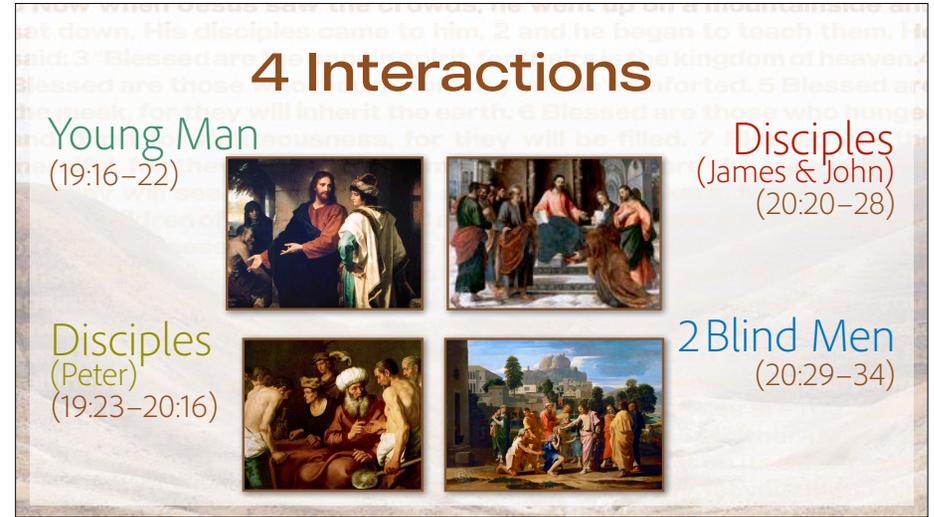
Jesus' interaction with the Disciples (James & John)
(20:20–28)



Christ with the Zebedee Family, Bonifazio de' Pitati.



Jesus' interaction with the 2 Blind Men (20:29-34)



The way to "completeness"?

- ◆ **Teacher** - respectful but uncommitted
- ◆ what good **thing** must *I do* to **get** eternal life...
 - salvation as personal achievement & result of ambition
- ◆ **keep** the commandments - not discarded but upheld
- ◆ **perfect** = full maturity, completeness
 - an invitation to go beyond the bare minimum
- ◆ **follow me**
 - the eternal life begins in entering life with Christ now
- ◆ he **went away** sad because he had many assets
 - he expected a singular investment, not total divestment

The way to "rewards"?

- ◆ **We** have left **everything** to follow - sort of
- ◆ what [**rewards**] then will there be for **us**?
 - rewards as personal achievement & result of ambition
- ◆ at the **renewal** of all things... - Jesus assures them
- ◆ **everyone** who has left _____ will receive 100x + eternal life
 - a disclosure that it will go beyond their expectations
- ◆ **But** many who are **first** will be **last**...
 - a warning to temper their self-importance
- ◆ are you **envious** because I am **generous**?
 - the generous "reward" is not earned, but gifted in mercy



The way to "greatness"?

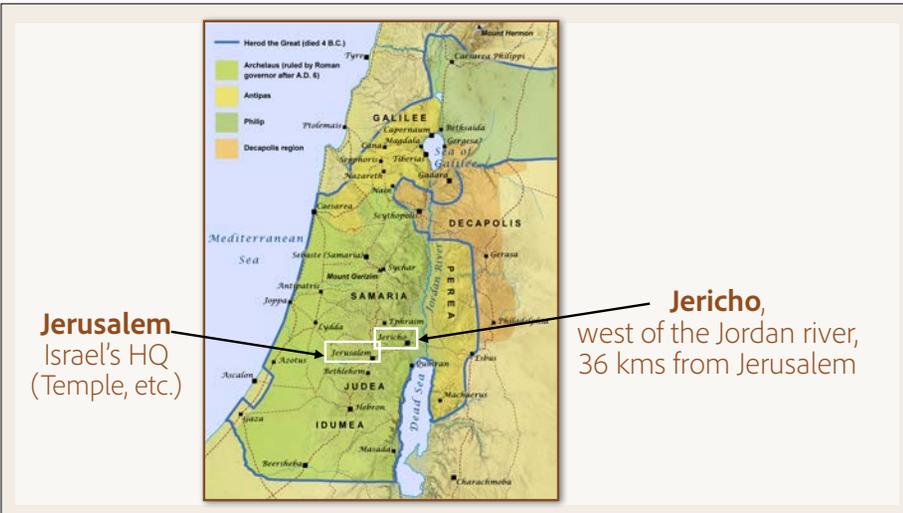
- ◆ **Grant** that...these two sons...may sit at your **right** and...**left**
 - Mom begs for places on honour and authority
- ◆ can you [both] drink **the cup** I am going to drink?
 - the road to Jesus' glory goes through suffering
- ◆ the **rulers** of the Gentiles **lord** it over them...**not so** with you
 - human systems do not parallel Jesus' Kingdom
- ◆ whoever wants to become **great**...must be your **servant**
 - an inversion of their expectations of greatness
- ◆ the Son of Man did not come to **be served**, but to **serve**
 - the perfect paradigm and model is Christ himself



The way to "wholeness"?

11 For the Son of Man will be comforted. 5 Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. 6 Blessed are those who hunger for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are they who are persecuted for the name of the Son of Man, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of the Son of Man, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. 11 For the Son of Man will be comforted.

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The way to "wholeness"?

- ◆ **Lord, Son of David** - recognized his authority and lineage
- ◆ have **mercy** on us - saw salvation/healing as a gift of grace
- ◆ Jesus stopped and **called** them
 - he answers their humble calls by calling them back
- ◆ **Lord**...we want our **sight**
 - a request for physical, economic, and social wholeness
- ◆ Jesus had **compassion** on them and touched their eyes
 - no challenge or warning given to them
- ◆ **Immediately** they received their sight and **followed** him
 - they asked for an act of mercy, but gained a relationship

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2 Blind Men
(20:29-34)



Young Man
(19:16-22)



- ◆ **Lord, son of David**
- ◆ have *mercy* on us...
- ◆ **Immediately...they followed him**

- ◆ **Teacher**
- ◆ what must *I do*...
- ◆ he **went away sad**

2 Blind Men
(20:29-34)



Invitation

The way to the top?

completeness greatness
rewards wholeness



Invitation

The humble way to Jesus

self-emptying servanthood
grace relationship