

Matthew 20:17-28

Slaves

Set free ...

I. Redemptive Humiliation

- A. The Son of Man
- B. Condemned & Scorned
- C. To Serve & Save

II. Reflected in the Apostles

- A. The Sons of Zebedee
- B. To Drink the Cup
- C. And Serve as Slaves

III. Recognizable in Christians

- A. Sons & Daughter of God
- B. To Take the Cross
- C. And Serve as Slaves

... for bondservice.

Children, Listen ...

1. What does Jesus say will happen to Him in Jerusalem?
2. Why is Jesus willing to do that?
3. What do John and James want from Jesus?
4. What does Jesus tell them they need to do instead?

Free to Be Slaves!?

Jesus came to set us free from bondage. The grips of the devil, the tyranny of sin and the finality of death bound us tightly. Our emancipation from such enslavement required His humble service and the utter humiliation of His passion. But then He broke the chains of our captivity by rising from the dead! And if Christ set us free, we are free indeed! (John 8:36) The benefits that attend such liberation are the immeasurable riches of heaven – blessings now and unimaginable blessings to come. But Jesus teaches us that our life in Him this side of eternity is not one of status seeking or self-serving pursuits, but of service to the Lord and others with the same kind of humility that He exemplified for us. Slavery is rarely considered a positive thing in the Bible or anywhere else for that matter – but here Jesus indicates that when we act as servants, even “slaves,” as His followers we are reflecting the demeanor and practices that He, the Lord of Glory, displayed Himself, in doing so we glorify our Father in Heaven.