

# Matthew Week 42: Service, Slavery, and Death

## **Scripture Memory of the Month**

*but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5:8

## **1) CATCH UP ON LIFE**

*This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. Because God is our Father we are family. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)*

Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)? Are there any practical needs you have right now?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

## **2) DISCUSS THE TEXT - ENGAGE THE HEART**

*Since we follow Jesus we seek to apply the Gospel continually to all of life. God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25).*

### **Read Matthew 20:17-28**

Why do you think the other disciples were "indignant" with James and John?

In what situations have you seen requests made like this? Have there been times that you have asked to be promoted in some fashion?

What is Jesus' correction to this attitude of self-promotion? Why does he say this attitude "shall not be so among you" - what reason does he give?

God's intent for power and greatness is that it would be used on behalf of others - not for self glorification. Where have you seen a good example of someone with power using it for the benefit of others not themselves?

How have you approached life with a mindset of “others are here to serve me” as opposed to Jesus’ model of service to others? (Be specific and consider the different areas of life - home, work, church, friendships, stores/restaurants, etc.)

What would it look like if we repented in these areas and began to look for opportunities to serve others? How might your attitude and actions change?

What is one area you can begin to focus on implementing this change?

### **3) REVIEW THE MISSION**

*Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we have been sent as missionaries in everyday life to display God’s glory and lead others to repentance and faith through belief in the gospel. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)*

#### **People:**

Who can be intentionally living on mission amidst our current situation? (neighbors, coworkers, or a specific demographic in Columbia)

#### **Plan:**

Who is one person you can share the gospel with this week? How can that be done under the current constraints? Spend some time praying for these opportunities.

How can we be intentional in times like this about sharing the gospel?

#### **Pray:**

Pray for God to help us love him above all else that we may join him boldly in his mission to redeem the world. Pray for those around us that we need to share this with or invite in.