



## Liberty Baptist Church Scripture Reflections

# DEEPER 3

Life Group Discussion  
October 4, 2020

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This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to [www.experienceliberty.org](http://www.experienceliberty.org) and select the Sermon title listed above.

### Verses: Matthew 20:18-28

“It is time for the church to realize that we exist to serve one another and our community. We are here to minister and not consume.”

-----Matt Burrell-----

“The flesh ever seeks to be glorified, before it is crucified: exalted, before it is abased.”

-----Martin Luther-----

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*Matthew 20:20 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 21 And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.”*

- The definition of ambition is, a strong desire to do or to achieve something, typically requiring determination and hard work. Is there anything wrong with someone being ambitious at work or church? Is our ambition for personal gain and recognition or kingdom advancement?
- What does this request made to Jesus tell us about these two disciples?
- Take note that when the mother of these disciples came to Jesus, He said to her “*What do you wish?*” Do you think we see Jesus as a candy man or who gives us sweets or makes every dream come true?
- These men were thinking in terms of personal reward and personal distinction; and they were thinking of personal success *without* personal sacrifice. Has our current culture forgotten the joys of working for something or the joy of sacrificing for a greater purpose?

*Matthew 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They said to Him, “We are able.”*

- WE ARE ABLE...if James and John had known /understood the direction in which their life would take them, do you think they would have been so cavalier in declaring “we are able?”
- Isn’t it just like us to ask for something before we understand the consequences of what we ask for? Pastor Matt compared this question to church politics. What is that and do we see that kind of attitude at Liberty, one where we’d rather be served than to serve?
- Life treated James and John very differently. James was the first of the apostles to die a martyr (Acts 12:2). For him the cup was martyrdom. For John the cup was the constant discipline and struggle of the Christian life throughout the years. Any person who is willing to follow Jesus

must understand, like James and John, there is a cup you will drink from and a baptism you will be baptized by. Do you think young Christians believe life will become all lollipops and cotton candy? Compare your own look at life when newly saved and now. How has your understanding of Christianity changed?

*Matthew 20:23 So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father." 24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

- What is the appropriate response when you hear someone being critical of our church or the leadership team? What if it is a church you don't attend, does your response change?
- Why do people feel compelled to scrutinize church leadership and their decisions?
- Why don't people flock to serve in the church? Why do we feel some jobs in the church are more important than others?
- Greatness does not consist in commanding others to do things for you; it consists in doing things for others; and the greater the service, the greater the honor. How do people react to and treat those who serve in the church? When was the last time you said thank you to the one who opened the church door for you?
- If your boss treats you poorly, how can you serve him? If your spouse isn't nice to you, how can you serve him/her? If someone in the church is spiteful to you, how can you serve them?

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If our cry is to be like Christ, then certainly our position in Christ is of a servant. You want to be a radical Christian...serve one another. You want to be like Christ...drink from the cup (sorrow) and be baptized(suffering) in Christ. You want greatness...then humble yourself before God.

The world may measure a man's greatness by the number of people who are at command; or his academic prominence; or by the size of his bank account; but in the assessment of Jesus Christ these things are irrelevant. His assessment is quite simply--*how many people has he helped?*

This week contemplate what God sees when looking at your service record and consider how many people you have helped this week.