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**Series: Encounters With Christ**  
**Jesus and James and John**

**Matthew 20:20-28 (NIV)**

*Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. <sup>21</sup> "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." <sup>22</sup> "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."*

*<sup>24</sup> When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- <sup>28</sup>just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

**1. BEING AN AUTHENTIC FOLLOWER OF JESUS IS NOT ABOUT POSITION.**

Matthew 19:28 (CEV)

*Jesus answered: Yes, all of you have become my followers. And so in the future world, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, I promise that you will sit on twelve thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel.*

- The world elevates position, Jesus emphasizes humility.
- The world relies upon power, Jesus rests upon dependency.
- The world glamorizes popularity, Jesus glorifies servanthood.

**2. OUR POSITION WITH CHRIST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FROM THE BEGINNING.**

- Our position in Christ means we must be prepared to identify with His suffering. (v. 22)

2 Corinthians 1:5 (NIV)

*For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.*

Matthew 24:9 (NIV)

*"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.*

- Our final destination is pre-determined, how we get there is a matter of choices.

**3. JESUS CALLS US TO SERVANTHOOD WITH HIS MODEL.**

- Greatness comes through service.

Philippians 2:5-7 (NIV)

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

- Service requires sacrifice.

Romans 12:1 (CEV)

*Dear friends, God is good. So I beg you to offer your bodies to him as a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing. That's the most sensible way to serve God.*

- Sacrifice develops disciples.

Matthew 16:24 (NLT)

*Then Jesus said to the disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me.*

**Our concern should not be, are we on His right or His left, it should be, are we right so we don't get left!**