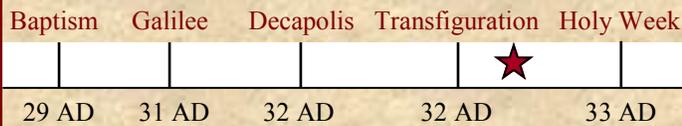
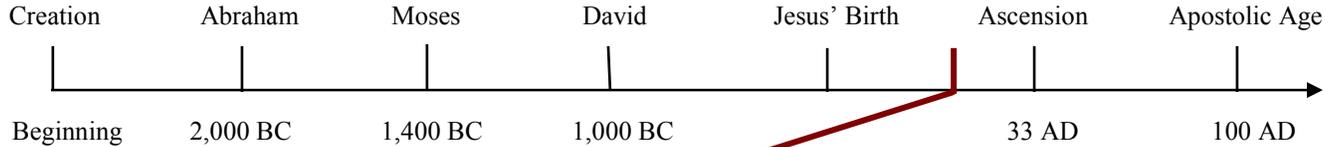


# Across the Generations

## Learning from God's Word and from Each Other

Sunday, March 2, 2008  
 "Who is the Greatest?"

### Context and Time Frame



### Overview: Matthew 20:17-28

Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

"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 your left in your kingdom."

"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.

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"

When the ten heard about his, they were indignant with the two brothers. 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. Not so with you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave -- 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."

### Review

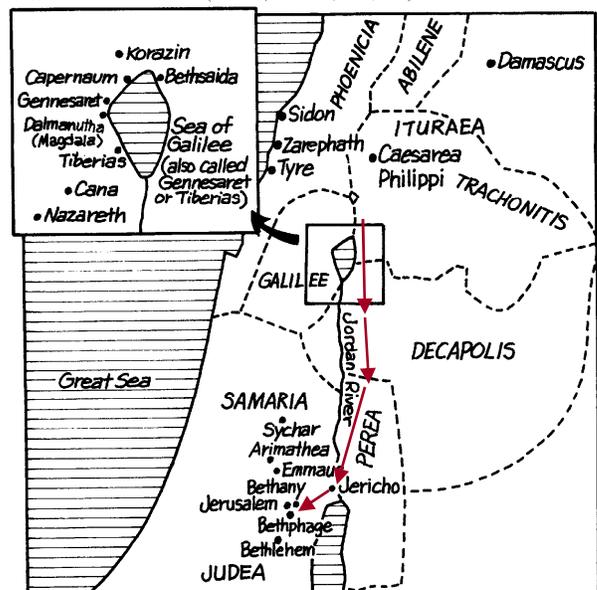
Jesus is approaching the end of his ministry. At the time of this record, he is on his way to Jerusalem. He is making his way south through Galilee, eventually traveling along the eastern side of the Jordan River (19:1) The journey is long and weighs on Jesus.

The time is limited, so Jesus takes the twelve aside and teaches them somewhat privately.

There are quite a few things bothering the disciples, particularly their position in the future kingdom:

Consider 19:27 ff

Consider 20:1-16



Who comes to Jesus during this time?

Why does this present such an interesting picture? (mother's love vs. mother's interference)

What is at the center of this request? (think of kingdom as a place)

How does Jesus "change the subject / change their focus?"

What wasn't surprising about the response of the other 10?

What is Jesus' answer to them about greatness?"

### My View

How do I "feel" about a Savior who died horribly?

What is my goal regarding heaven?

Is my preference to serve, or to be served? How does the old and new self control that choice?

**Evaluate:** A leader is someone who accepts the responsibility to initiate self-less love and service.

What is the outcome of this kind of life?

### Closing View

Why is Jesus' resolution and determination so important to remember?

Look at where Jesus begins with the disciples, and where he ends. Look at where he begins with us and where he ends.

How do I achieve the goal of being just as the Son of Man?

**Devotional Thoughts - Matthew 20:17-28**  
*Monday, March 3rd through Saturday, March 8th*

**Monday**

*Read Christian Worship 486 st. 1,2 & 5*

Lord of glory, you have bought us with your life-blood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice,  
And with that have freely given blessings countless as the sand --  
To the unthankful and the evil with your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you gladly, freely of your own.  
With the sunshine of your goodness melt our thankless hearts of stone.  
Till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by you, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed, 'Tis to give than to receive.

Why do we do everything we do?  
What stands in our way of serving the Lord?  
Why is it more blessed to give than to receive?

**Wednesday**

*Reread the Lesson*

Did Jesus say there was something wrong with the mother's request?  
How should we understand "boldness and confidence in prayer?"  
What answers can we usually expect when we pray?

**Friday**

*Read Christian Worship 482 st. 1 & 4*

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness, for dull content with warmth and sheltered care,  
For songs of praise for worldly wealthiness, while of your richer gifts we're unaware.

Open our eyes to see your love's intent, to know with minds and hearts in depth and height.  
Let thankful days in loving labor spent, reflect the truly Christ-like life and light.

Why do we need to confess the sin of shallow thankfulness and dull content?  
What is a truly Christ-like life?  
What is the only thing that will lead us to desire and accomplish this goal?

**Saturday**

*Recall the words of Luther's Explanation to the Second Article*

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him  
in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death  
and lives and rules eternally.

Why did Jesus die for me?  
What is my response?  
Why is this the perfect example and the perfect motivation for my life of service?