

Creekside Community Church
"The Return of the King" The Gospel of Matthew
February 4, 2018
John Bruce - Pastor

Good and Bad Ambition
(Matthew 20:17-28)

1. Our Greatness is Not Determined by Us (Matt. 20:23)

2. The Desire to be Great is Not Wrong (Matt. 20:26)

3. The Path to Greatness is Not Up (Matthew 20:27-28)

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Where do you see a desire for attention, approval or acclaim shaping your behavior? Share one healthy ambition you have. Share one unhealthy ambition you have.

Going Deeper

3. Please read Matthew 20:17-19. The closer Jesus gets to the cross, the more we see Him reminding His disciples about what's going to happen to Him in Jerusalem. Why do you think He keeps repeating this? How do His disciples react? Can you think of an example where you ignore or avoid Jesus' clear teaching on a subject? Why do you think we do this?
4. Please read Matthew 20:20-21. Why is Mrs. Zebedee's request a bit ill-timed at this point? Why do you think she made this request for her sons? What exactly is she asking Jesus for?
5. Please read Matthew 20:22-23. What do you notice about the way Jesus answer's this mother's request for her boys? What do you notice about the cost of greatness? What has following Jesus cost you thus far? Do you think every Christian will drink the cup Jesus drank? Why or why not? What do Jesus' words, "but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father" tell you about greatness?
6. Please read 1 Cor. 4:1-5. How does Paul apply Jesus' statement in Matthew 20:23 to his own life? How would believing that true greatness only comes from God change you?
7. Please read Matthew 20:24. Why are the other disciples mad at James and John? What does this reveal about them?
8. Please read Matthew 20:25-28. What does Jesus teach about the difference between good ambition and bad ambition? Why is there nothing inherently wrong about wanting to be first or great? How can too little ambition be just as bad as the wrong kind of ambition? What is the path to true greatness? How does Jesus exemplify this path? How does Jesus exemplify this entire passage?
9. If your ambition was to become the best servant of the most people, what would need to change in your life?

Application: What is one thing you have learned from this passage and how will you apply it to your life?