

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 11/22-23/2021 *Matthew Chapter 20***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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## **OPENING PRAYER**

### ***Matthew Chapter 20***

**The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard – (vs. 1-16); Jesus a Third Time Predicts His Death and Resurrection - (vs. 17-19); Greatness in Serving – (vs. 20-28); Two Blind Men Receive Their Sight – (vs. 29-34).**

**Chapter 20 is really tied very closely to chapter 19 and to the question of Peter**, when they saw the rich young ruler who had come to Jesus seeking eternal life. They saw him going away because he wasn't, it seems willing to pay the price.

*Mat 19:27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"*

*Mat. 19:28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

*Mat 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. Mat 19:30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.*

*Mat 20:16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."*

We have then between these two statements this parable of Jesus concerning the kingdom of heaven.

### *Laborers in the Vineyard*

*Mat 20:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning (about 6 am) to hire laborers for his vineyard.*

*Mat 20:2 Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.*

- The laborers hired during this first shift are the only ones who agreed to a specific amount of pay for their wages that day. Whatever that penny represented, it was a day's wage for a laboring man; the standard salary for a laboring man for a day's labor. This was the only group that agreed in advance what their wages for the day would be!

*Mat 20:3 And he went out about the third hour (9 am), and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,*

*Mat 20:4 and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went.*

*Mat 20:5 Again he went out about the sixth (12 noon, and the ninth hour (3 pm), and did likewise.*

*Mat 20:6 And about the eleventh hour (5 pm), he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?'*

*Mat 20:7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'*

*Mat 20:8 "So when evening had come (in this parable, think of this day as our lifetime), the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.'*

*Mat 20:9 And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. (Even at the end of the day, there is a purpose in our life – The day is far spent. The night is at hand! Many are called; few are chosen)*

*Mat 20:10 But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius.*

*Mat 20:11 And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner,*

*Mat 20:12 saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.'*

*Mat 20:13 But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?'*

*Mat 20:14 Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you.*

- We see here salvation is not based a legal or mathematical relationship but rather of the grace, love and mercy of the LORD, in His wanting to give the gift of everlasting life to all who will come to Him, regardless of the number of years they have lived!

*Mat 20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own (His own will) things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?'*

*Mat 20:16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen (eklektos - selected; by implication favorite: - chosen, elect).*

- **We need to be careful that we do not misinterpret this parable** of Jesus, saying, well, you can just slack off. It doesn't really matter. Just make a last-minute repentance because the last shall be first, and the first last. You just come on in, slide in at the end. When the doctor puts on the life support system and says there's not much we can do, then it's the time to say, Lord, forgive me of everything I've ever done! Lord, I want to serve You.
- **Notice when Peter said, Lord, we have left all to follow You, what do we get?** Jesus said, No one has left houses or homes, brethren, family for My sake, but what he doesn't receive a hundredfold and in the world to come everlasting life. The gift of God is eternal life to those who believe in Jesus Christ! When you come to believe is a matter of God's choice and is in God's hands. There are people who have received Jesus Christ at the eleventh hour, so to speak.
- **There are many people who on their death bed** have repented and received Jesus Christ as their Savior. We don't want to argue the merits of death bed repentance. God knows the heart. But if a person on his death bed does receive Jesus Christ, and genuinely accepts Him as his Lord, he will receive the same eternal life that you and I have received. With respect to salvation, though he has come in last, he's going to get the same as we who came in first! God's glorious gift of eternal life.
- **Drawing from the parable the importance of salvation is not it's full message.** The beauty and desire of the Lord for a fruitful Christian life is also clearly shown. Our works can do nothing to save us, but our works, done out of the right motives, especially that of love, are promised rewards. We see this judgment of believers described in *(2Co 5:10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.* We are to be faithful to our calling. Our faithfulness will be rewarded. *(1Co 3:11-15) For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, [13] each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. [14] If anyone's work which he has built on it (this foundation) endures, he will receive a reward. [15] If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*
- **There is another parable, (Mat 25:14-30) of the householder or the lord who gave unto his servants** a certain amount of money. To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one. He went away to a far country. When he returned he required of the servants an accounting of what they had done with what the master had given to them. The one that was given five talents said, Lord, I took the five. I gained another five, here's ten. He said, Well done, good and faithful servant. You've been faithful in the little things, now I'll make you ruler over many, enter into the joy of the Lord. The one that received the two talents said, lord, your two has gained another two and I give you four talents. The lord said the same, Good job. The one that received the one talent said, lord, I know that you're an austere man, you prone to reap where you haven't sown and all, so I was very careful. I took and hid the talent in the napkin and buried it and now that you've come back, I've dug it up and here is your talent back. The lord cast him out. He said, you've judged yourself. You know that I am an austere man. You know that I want value for my investment.
- **His failure to use the opportunities that God had given him put him on the outside.** We mustn't play loosely with this parable and say, that it really doesn't matter what you do. What the parable is illustrating is **faithfulness to the covenant that you've made with the Lord and the Lord has made with you.**
- **Here is a fellow in the beginning of the day.** He offers him a decent day's pay. Go out in the vineyard and work. Now notice those at the eleventh hour. He said, How come you're still standing around idle at the eleventh hour? They said, No one has hired us. They had not had the opportunity of working. He said, Go out and I'll pay you what is right. They went out and labored for an hour.
- **They were faithful to the opportunity that was given to them.** That is basically through the parables the main emphasis that the Lord seems to make is the faithfulness to use the opportunities that God gives to us. That's what we're going to be judged by. That will be the judgment for the measure of reward and all that we receive. It is our faithfulness. The Bible declares that it is required of a steward that he be faithful. *(1Co 4:1-2) Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. [2] Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.* If God has called me at the beginning of the day and I am faithful, that's what counts. If God calls me

at the eleventh hour and I am faithful, that's what counts. God counts the faithfulness to the opportunities that have been given.

- **There are some people that it seems that God has given to them vast opportunities** and they have ministries that are well known. I think of Billy Graham, who God has used in such a tremendous way, was faithful into his nineties, even with Parkinson's Disease and all. Yet, he continued being faithful, in the pulpit, as strong as ever. He was just a magnificent servant of God, faithful, so faithful! God has given him the opportunity to minister to millions of people, to minister unto important people through the world. He has been faithful.
- **But way out in the back woods of Kentucky, there may be some mother out there raising two sons**, and just filling them with the knowledge and the understanding of God, nurturing them, loving them, teaching them the ways of God. She is faithful to her calling that God has called her in the ministry to her own two sons. Now when we get to heaven, because she was faithful to the opportunities that God gave her, she will receive equally with Billy Graham who was faithful to the opportunities God gave him.
- **It isn't how famous you become in your service to God. It isn't how many people you minister to. It is your faithfulness in the ministry and in the opportunities that God has given to you that really counts when it comes down to the final accounting.** Many who are prominent first in the view of the people will not really receive any more than some of these people who you've never heard of and will never hear of until you get to heaven. You will discover here they are on the front row, still faithful unto God. They have been faithful to whatever it is that God has called them.
- **The important thing is to know what God has called me to do! Then to be faithful to the calling of God. For many are called, but few chosen.**
- **This is a tremendous parable which illustrates an important truth:** It is not the amount of time which you serve nor the prominence or importance of your position which determines your reward. Rather, you will be rewarded for your faithfulness to the task, which God has given you to perform, regardless of how small or how short or how insignificant it appears.

### *Jesus Foretells His Death a Third Time*

*Mat 20:17 Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them,*

*Mat 20:18 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death,*

*Mat 20:19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again." (Mar 10:34) and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."*

- **Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples aside.** He leaves the multitude. They have been thronging Him. We read in the previous chapter that He is on His way to Jerusalem. He is on the other side of Jordan, the area of Peraea, but He's on His way to Jerusalem. Multitudes have followed Him, bringing their sick. He is healing them still. Now, He gets alone with His disciples. *(Mar 10:32) Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. (Luk 18:31) Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.*
- **He will be delivered; He will be betrayed; they will condemn Him to death; deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock; spit on Him; to scourge; and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.** Incidentally, in the New Testament we never see Jesus' crucifixion and death discussed without including that on the third day He will rise again or that the tomb is going to be empty. Now as He is going to Jerusalem for the last time to His crucifixion, the intensity and detail is picking up. We see here that Jesus is telling His disciples exactly what is going to happen to Him. At one point, Jesus said, I have told you before it has come to pass so that when it does come to pass, you might believe. He is not a victim. He is deliberately going to take our place in death so we can take His place in life!
- **Often, the purpose of prophecy is to reveal the fact that God has declared certain things and to affirm that it was God who spoke because He knows the end from the beginning.** Thus, He can speak of the future, as well as the past and with the same clarity. He can tell you exactly what is going

to happen. Jesus, likely, is telling this to His disciples to help prepare them. The whole issue now is that of greatness and that of, Lord, what are we going to get? We followed You all the way and what's in store for us? They are still expecting Him to maybe set up the kingdom when they get to Jerusalem. Maybe soon I'll have this great, important position. Jesus is trying to correct their false thoughts. We're going to Jerusalem. I'm going to be betrayed to the chief priests and scribes. They're going to condemn Me to death. But the third day I will rise again!

- **Somehow, they still didn't believe this. (Luk 18:34)** *But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.* Though Jesus is speaking very plainly, there's no cryptic message. He's very plain about what's going to happen. But yet, it is so opposed to what their concept of the Messiah is, somehow it's not penetrating.
- **There's a very dangerous thing about pre-conceived ideas and positions** because when you're faced with the facts, it's really hard to accept something that is in disagreement with your position and expectation. We are prone to just ignore certain facts, as the disciples did. Though Jesus is speaking very plainly of His being betrayed, being condemned to death, turned over to the Romans to be mocked and scourged and crucified, but when He gets that far, somehow their minds turn off. They never hear the final clause! They never hear that I'm going to rise again!
- **We are told in Luke's gospel how slow of heart they were to believe in the resurrection.** When the women came back and said the angels told us He was risen! The tomb is empty! They didn't believe them, as well as the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They expressed that some of the women said they saw a vision of an angel and all but, they didn't see Jesus. He said, O slow of heart to believe the resurrection!
- Now somehow when Jesus talked about His death, it was so opposite of their concept of the Messiah that they were so shocked that they never did pick up on the fact that He said, "I'm going to rise again the third day." It wasn't until after He rose and appeared to them. Then, they remembered how He said He would rise again! But during the three days they have forgotten all about it. He's dead! He's gone! It's all over! It wasn't until after they had seen the risen Lord! Then, they remembered that He said He was going to rise again! And He has risen!
- **But look at Thomas, who said, that** I won't believe unless I can put my finger in the print of His hand and thrust my hand into His side. Slow of heart to believe! Jesus is telling them very plainly now what is awaiting Him in Jerusalem in order that He might prepare their hearts. But try as He may, they are so dull to accept something that is so vastly opposed to their preconceived concepts of the Messiah.
- **We are told over and over again in the Scriptures of Jesus' second coming.** We are also told of the glory in heaven that awaits us. How much am I like the disciples, either failing to believe, or at least failing to remember what has been so clearly prophesied to us regarding both?

### *A Mother's Request*

**Mat 20:20** *Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. (Mat 27:56; Mar 15:40; Joh 19:25)*

- **This is, the mother of James and John.** She came with her sons. Come on boys, let us talk to the Lord. Oh Lord, I love You! I have a favor to ask of You.

**Mat 20:21** *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." (Mar 10:36) And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?"*

- **They were asking for something which Jesus had given them every reason to ask for, just a few days before.** Matthew records that Jesus had promised them that when He came into His glory they would sit on twelve thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what they have on their minds as they walk up to Jerusalem. There are thrones waiting for them. She said, please put my boys, Lord, up there at the top, one on your right and one on your left.
- **They ask for three specific things:** First they ask for pre-eminence. They want to sit on those thrones and have the honor and exaltation that a throne represents. This is what they had been promised.
- **Secondly, they want proximity.** Once the disciples knew that twelve thrones were waiting for them, and as they had twice now fallen into a discussion as to which of them would be greatest among them,

you can understand why they would discuss where these thrones would be placed in relationship to Jesus. So, they come with this request. They want to be near to Jesus. Now, is that wrong? No, it is not wrong to want to be near to Jesus. They know they are going to sit with Him and think it perfectly in order to ask to be given the positions nearest Him.

- **Thirdly, they want power.** Because, of course, that is what a throne represents. In some sense, they had already experienced the gift of power from Jesus. They had been sent out and given power to raise the dead and heal the sick and cast out demons. They are only asking for what had already been promised. There is nothing wrong with that.
- **When our Lord replies, He does not rebuke them.** He does not say, "What's the matter with you fellows? How can you be so proud?" He does not rebuff this ambition to be near Him, to have preeminence, and to have power. But he does say to them, in effect, that they are going about it entirely the wrong way. This brings us to His answer:

***Mat 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."***

- **Notice James and John. They are into this whole thing full hearted.** Oh yes, yes, yes, we are! Don't bother asking mom! We will tell you, sure! We're ready. They didn't know what they were saying. They didn't know what Jesus was saying when, in effect He was saying that the trouble with you fellows is not that you are asking for the wrong thing, but that you are asking for it with no understanding of what is involved! You're ignorant, knowing not what you're asking. They are ignorant of the cost of this, the price that it would demand. He implies that He Himself is on the same path as they desire to follow. He is on the way to glory. But he is ready to pay the price.

***Mat 20:23 So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup (of My cup, not the selfsame, but of what was like unto it), 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." (Luk 12:50) But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!***

- **He said to them, You will indeed drink indeed My cup, the cup of suffering.** James was one of the first martyrs in the early church. Herod had him beheaded. When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he put Peter in prison, intending to also execute him! But God delivered Peter. Yes, Jesus said, you will drink of the same cup, meaning his reproaches, sorrows, sufferings, and death; which He compares to a bitter cup of vengeance, wrath, fury, and indignation. Now Christ suggests to these disciples, that instead of indulging their ambitious desires of worldly grandeur, that they would do well to consider what a bitter cup He had to drink of, and what a sea of sorrows and sufferings He was about to be plunged into, and drenched in. And what they also they would be called unto, and not to honors, ease, and pleasure, but what they must surely, more or less, to undergo, before they entered the everlasting kingdom of glory:
- **You will be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with;** A baptism of suffering. Christ was referring to His death. Christian baptism symbolizes identification with Him in death, burial, and resurrection. *But as far as your request, to sit on My right hand, and on My left, is not mine to give, but it, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.* Those are the issues that the Father has in His hands.
- **Is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.** Our Lord is not saying that there is no place at His right hand and left hand for somebody. He is saying that He will not arbitrarily give the positions to James and John or to anyone else. Rather, the places are for those who prepare themselves for them.
- **Note that heaven is for the asking. You do nothing, nothing, for salvation. You are saved by faith in Christ through His marvelous grace.** However, your position, your reward in heaven is determined by what you do down here on earth. That is very important! Many Christians seem to have lost sight of it. What kind of a place are you preparing for yourself? I have no ambition for the places on Christ's right or left hand—I'm sure I have missed those—but I am working for a place. All of us should be doing this. In **(Php 3:14) I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.** Too many Christians today, are not even trying to win anything. We need to recognize salvation as a free gift, but we need to get on the race course in order to receive a reward.

***Mat 20:24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.***

- **Now when the ten other disciples heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.** These guys were trying to get ahead of us, trying to get special favors! They were moved with indignation. There was this competition going with the disciples. They were ambitious, but not necessarily for the right purposes. Sometimes our service to God is not always with the right motive. Paul said the love of Christ constrains me. That's the true motive. Lord, I just love You. I'm going to serve You because I love you! If I just get in, Lord, I'll be happy! I am not looking for a place of prominence, of position, of power; but just thrilled and blessed to have the opportunity of serving the Lord.

**Mat 20:25** *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.*

- **This is the worldly scheme.** This is the way the world operates.

**Mat 20:26** *Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant (diakonos -- deacon, minister, servant). (2Co 1:24) Not that we have dominion over your faith but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith, you stand.*

- **Somehow this word "servant" or "minister", through usage, has undergone a radical change of meaning.** The word "minister" literally means to serve, to minister to another person's needs. And yet the way it has been incorporated within the church, it signifies usually within the church a position of power and authority, rather than of service. When I arrive at an airport and they are there to meet me and I say, There are my bags, you can carry my bags. No! I'm the minister, the servant! I will carry your bags Jesus said, the Gentiles, they love this business of authority, power, exercise it, ordering people around they say, but not so among you. Whoever would have the place of leadership, let him learn to be the *servant*.
- **Remember when Jesus had that last supper with His disciples.** He took the towel and went around the room washing their feet, which was the job of a servant. When Jesus finished the task of washing the disciples' feet, He said, You see what I have done? You call me Lord and Master. That is correct because that's what I am. But if I, being your Lord and Master, wash your feet, take the place of ministering to you, serving you, then surely you ought to minister to one another. That is what Jesus intended for those who would have leadership within the church. That they would recognize that as the leader, you are actually to be the servant of the people, there to minister to them.

**Mat 20:27** *And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—*

**Mat 20:28** *just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for (instead of) many."*

- **Jesus points to Himself as the example.** I didn't come to be served! I came to serve! I came *to give My life as a ransom to many!* There are many ministries whose sole function, it would seem, is to be served by the people, but they are constantly asking you to minister to them, to contribute to them. But, the whole idea is to give to the people, to minister to the people. That is the kind of ministry that Jesus acknowledges and encourages. He is saying, Don't seek to be ministered to but seek to minister! Seek to serve. It's so beautiful when people catch this concept, being open to just serving the Lord by serving others within the body.

### **Jesus Heals Two Blind Men**

**Mat 20:29** *Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him.*

- **There is a supposed contradiction here in Matthew's gospel and in the other gospels** concerning the healing of the blind man at Jericho. Matthew tells us there were two. The other gospels speak of one, even naming him, Bartimaeus. Matthew tells us it happened as He was departing from Jericho. The other gospels say that He was entering Jericho, causing a supposed contradiction in the scripture. Bible critics have made a big deal over this supposed contradiction. But in recent years, they have discovered the Jericho of the time of Jesus.
- **Interestingly enough, the Jericho at the time of Christ, was not on the same site of the Jericho of the time of Joshua.** The Jericho at the time of Christ is about three miles southwest of the Jericho of the time of Joshua. In the discovery of the ruins of Jericho, which they are presently excavating, they have found that Herod built quite a winter resort down there. It included gymnasiums and swimming pools and all. They found there was an upper Jericho and a lower Jericho! There were actually two cities called Jericho. You could be leaving the lower Jericho coming into the upper Jericho, so that both gospels are correct. He was leaving the lower Jericho and entering the upper Jericho. It was

between the two is where He met these blind men. There is no contradiction! The Bible again is right, as it always is.

***Mat 20:30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"***

***Mat 20:31 Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"***

- **These men knew that they needed help and they were aware that Jesus could help them.** They were not about to be deterred. It is interesting how that so many people today are needing help and sometimes when it is suggested that they go to Jesus for help, there are always those that say, Oh no, we wouldn't think of doing that, would you? Come on, let's be real. There'll always be those who will seek to discourage you from coming to Jesus even though it is only in Him and through Him that you can find help. Thus, the crowd was discouraging, be quiet, hold your peace. But they were so desperate, they were going to press on. They cried all the louder, ***Jesus, have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.***

***Mat 20:32 So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?"***

- ***Jesus stood still!*** The blind men were hearing the crunching of footsteps, which now slowed to a halt! (***Luk 18:37, 38, 40***) ***So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. [38] And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! [39] Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" [40] So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, What do you want Me to do for you? One genuine, urgent cry to the Lord, stops the whole religious parade.! Crunch, crunch, then slowing, then it stops!***

***Mat 20:33 They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened."***

***Mat 20:34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.***

- **These guys were willing to be led.** We live in a world that is not willing to be led to Jesus. If you want to lead an unsaved person to Jesus, whom they have never seen, they will give you a hard time.
- **But here the two blind men saw the Messiah and cried out!** What was Jesus' voice like? ***What do you want Me to do for you?*** He is asking me what I want, not because He doesn't know. He is asking me because He wants me to bring it to Him! He wants me to cast all of my cares on Him!
- **Our compassionate Lord!** How many times we read, "***And Jesus had compassion."*** **touched their eyes.** Before they saw, they felt His touch! **And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.** Now they instantaneously had vision too, because ***they followed Him immediately!*** I bet the first thing they saw was a warm, affectionate, smiling face of Jesus!
- **He gave the blind men their sight immediately!** A few facts about the human eye. Evolutionists have all kinds of trouble with the eye. It's intricacies are simply too complex to believe it just happened! The eye is a camera. We look at all things through the lens in our eyes. Our sight or vision, however, is in our brain. We don't really understand how the image comes from the eye to be "sprayed" up inside the brain. It seems to come in various frequency radio waves from the eyes.
- **In the retina of an eye there are an estimated 100 million rods,** which control the amount of light entering the eyes. Think of going into a movie theatre and having to wait a bit for our vision to adjust.
- In the back of eye, the retina area has 10 million cones, which are capable of determining for example, 1,000 different hues of color. It is estimated that the eyes send billions of signals at a time going to your brain. An image library is formed inside the brain, which allows us to call up images that have been previously seen.
- **The eye is self-lubricating, self-cleaning, self-protecting eyelids and is self-healing,** having an antiseptic capability to keep it from infection. The eyes has the ability to stay focused even when we move our head around, vertically or horizontally. When a baby is born it takes a few weeks for the image library to be formed and for the baby to see clearly. The same with an adult who has been blind but has been healed. **We note here that the two blind men were healed, immediately and followed Jesus! What a healer! What a Savior!**
- **They followed Him!** Just imagine, they followed Him up to Jerusalem, to the Mount of Olives. They see the triumphal entry. They see Him persecuted. They see Him crucified! Imagine what they see in their first week of following Him! Remarkable, Remarkable!



- **What about you? What is your answer to Jesus' question? What do you want Me to do for you?** What do you, do I, really want from Jesus? We need to consider this important question. (*Psa 139:23-24*) *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; [24] And see if there is any wicked way in me And lead me in the way everlasting.*
- **Oh Lord Jesus, open my eyes that I may see!**

### KEY PRINCIPLES - Matthew Chapter 20

#### The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard:

- **Remembering it is He** who has called us. He can and will give to us what He pleases. We know that we are to be faithful to our calling.
- **He promises eternal life** to those who believe in Him, have repented and surrendered their life to Him, without regard to their age or number of years of service, a salvation is a free gift, not based on our efforts or our persevering through difficulties.
- **There is also the blessing and reward of faithful service** as His child, which those who come at the last hour will not have. Our reward for service is primarily dependent on our faithfulness to our calling.

#### Jesus a Third Time Predicts His Death and Resurrection:

- For the third time Jesus, with greater intensity, is plainly telling His disciples of what's ahead in Jerusalem. It is that of being betrayed, condemned, delivered, mocked scourged, crucified, but that He will rise on the third day!
- **We will see that right after His crucifixion**, none of them believed! But soon they did remember!
- **We are told repeatedly in the Scriptures of Jesus' second coming.** We are also told of the glory in heaven that awaits us.
- **How much am I like the disciples**, either failing to believe, or at least failing to remember what has been so clearly prophesied to us regarding both? How prone am I to focus only on the current difficulties and forget all about the glorious promises to all believers, because of what He has done? It's all His grace!

#### Greatness in Serving – A Mother's Request:

- **All the disciples wanted to be close to Jesus as well as preeminence and power.** Jesus in answering the request of the mother of James and John, did not say they were asking the wrong thing, but were asking for it with no understanding of what is involved! You're ignorant, knowing not what you're asking.
- **You will indeed drink My cup and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with;** A baptism of suffering. Christ was referring to His death. Christian baptism symbolizes identification with Him in death, burial, and resurrection. *But as far as your request, to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.*
- **Jesus points to Himself as the example.** I didn't come to be served! I came to serve! I came to give My life as a ransom to many!
- **Seek to serve!** Jesus is saying, Don't seek to be ministered to but seek to minister, (seek to serve)! "If you really want to be great in the kingdom of God, learn to be the servant of all.

#### Two Blind Men Receive Their Sight!

- **What is your answers to Jesus' question? What do you want Me to do for you?**
- **The blind men said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened."** This gives us a very beautiful picture of people who are blinded in sin, are crying out for Jesus, being discouraged by others, but persistence is needed, for there is a whole new life in Him!
- **When we ask for good things from God, ask also to be able to see** what they involve! Ask to have your sight, especially your spiritual sight, be given to you, so that you see yourself, and all that may be needed, before God can answer that prayer."
- (*Psa 139:23-24*) *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; [24] And see if there is any wicked way in me And lead me in the way everlasting.*
- **Oh Lord Jesus, open my eyes that I may see!**

**CLOSING SONG:**

**OPEN OUR EYES, LORD** - Maranatha Music (4:30)

Open our eyes, Lord We want to see Jesus  
To reach out and touch Him And say that we love Him  
Open our ears, Lord And help us to listen  
Open our eyes, Lord We want to see Jesus (2X)

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Assignment for next week: Read *Matthew Chapter 21*