

RUSSELL, Robert, V35292  
TUMI-Module 11  
EXEGETICAL Project, MATH 20:20-28  
MARCH 14, 16

BIBLE PASSAGE: MATH 20:20-28

STEP 1: What WAS the ORIGINAL Situation.

+15

Although this book is technically ANONYMOUS, this first book of the NEW TESTAMENT WAS UNANIMOUSLY Attributed to MATTHEW LEVI by the EARLY Church fathers. It was written in approximately 60 A.D. while the Apostle PAUL was imprisoned for the CAUSE of Christ.

Matthew is ADDRESSING; God is through MATTHEW (2 Tim 3:16-17), A DIVERSE Church "TRANSCENDING ETHNIC, ECONOMIC, AND RELIGIOUS BARRIERS"<sup>①</sup> to find ONENESS in Christ. IN this Gospel God is bridging the Old Testament and the New. It tells the Jewish Nation AND the world JESUS is the true MASSIAH, IMMORTAL, God INCARNATE COME to His own.

The Author is said to be Matthew the tax collector of MATH. 10:3. WE CAN deduce from this that "when Matthew was CALLED HE WAS WEALTHY AND DISPISED."<sup>②</sup> A MESSAGE IN AND of itself to His Church! The man God

Good background information

USED TO GIVE US THIS GOSPEL COMPLETELY  
SCRAPED HIS WIFE AND GAVE UP ALL TO  
ANSWER THE CALL.

The Gospel is a MANUAL in discipleship.  
It's the first book of the New Testament  
for a reason! IN THE PASSAGE UNDER CONSID-  
ERATION WE HAVE JESUS ON HIS WAY TO  
THE CROSS. HE IS CONFRONTED BY THE MOTHER  
OF ZEBEDEE'S TWO SONS, JAMES AND JOHN.

SHE IS OF THE FAITH. SHE IS FOLLOWING  
AN OLD CUSTOM: A MOTHER SEEKING FAVOR FROM  
A LEADER FOR HER SONS. SHE IS ALSO SEEKING  
"KINSHIP ADVANTAGE, AS JESUS IS THE HALF  
COUSIN OF JAMES + JOHN." (3) SHE SEEKS  
THE PLACES OF FIRST AND SECOND OF HONOR  
FOR HER SONS.

CHRIST COUNTERS HER REQUEST WITH THE  
REMINDER HE IS ABOUT TO GIVE HIS WIFE - AS  
"DRINK THIS CUP" REFERENCES IN VERSE 22. HE  
ASKED JAMES AND JOHN IF THEY WERE ABLE  
TO "DRINK THE CUP". THEY REPLIED "WE CAN".  
HE INFORMS THEM THEY WILL, WHICH WE  
KNOW THEY DID. (SEE FOXES BOOK OF MARTYRS).  
THE OTHERS WERE UPSET BY THIS REQUEST FOR  
PURELY SELFISH REASONS. THUS OUR LORD,

faced with the cross, is freed by the fallen man he'd come to redeem.

HE (JESUS) USES THE CURRENT RULERS AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT A PRACTICING CHRISTIAN LEADER IS NOT — A HIGH-MINDED, AUTHORITARIAN. THEN INFORMS US WHAT A PCL IS: A SERVANT TO ALL. (V 26-27).

+10

Step 2: What are the main biblical principles?

Principle 1: Promotion is from God (v 23)

Principle 2: Serving others makes one great in the eyes of God, not hoarding over them. (v 26-27)

Principle 3: We're to follow the example of Jesus and lay down our life for others. (v 28)

+15

Step 3: How do these principles apply today?

#1) I believe this is foundational principle for the practicing Christian leader (PCL) to understand. When we've come to under-

Stand this, in faith we can serve under others, while leaving the issue of promotion/demotion to God. We can just be about His business.

#2) We must understand we head so others can be built up and exalted, not we ourselves. We are not to demand obedience, but to encourage holiness. (Col. 3:12; Tit 1:8; 1 Pet 1:15-16). We do this by serving in humility, considering the needs of others far above our own. (Phil 2:4; Jude 23; Eph 4:28).

#3) By looking to the Author + Finisher of our faith (Heb 12:2) we have a Perfect Model to follow. (2 Pet 2:5). We can forget self (Matt 16:24) and follow Him (Matt 16:24). We are free to lay down our life for the good of others (1 Jn 3:16).

+5 Bibliography: What Books did I use

Zondervan Background Commentary

New Bible Commentary

NAS Study Bible

NKJV Study Bible; ESV Bible, KJV Bible.

## PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS - (MATH 20:20-28)

MATTHEW - LEVI LEFT ALL HE KNEW; WEALTH AND POSITION, A FAITHFUL MAN OF GOD GOD USED TO PEN THIS GOSPEL. (MATH 9:9) (Lk 19:1-10). AS A GALILEEAN JEWISH CHRISTIAN HE COULD INTERPRET AND UNDERSTAND JESUS AND HIS WORK FROM THE O.T. PERSPECTIVE.

EARLY CHURCH FATHER IRENAEUS (AD 175) INDICATES PAUL AND PETER WERE ALIVE AT ITS WRITING<sup>(4)</sup> SO WE CAN SURMISE IT WAS IN THE LATE 50'S TO EARLY 60'S IT WAS WRITTEN. ORIGINALLY WRITTEN TO THE EARLY CHURCH IN SYRIA ANTIOCH (ACTS 11:19-26; 13:1-3) BUT DISTRIBUTED BOTH WIDELY AND QUICKLY.

A REAL KEY TO UNDERSTANDING OUR PASSAGE IS RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL CUSTOM OF A MOTHER SEEKING ADVANTAGE FOR HER SONS. (1 KING 1:15-21) (2 SAM 14:2-20). ALSO SIGNIFICANT HERE IS THE KINSHIP ADVANTAGE IN PLAY.<sup>(5)</sup>

THE "RIGHT HAND" OF VERSE 21 DENOTES THE PLACE OF HIGHEST HONOR IN REGARDS TO A KING (JD 2:17). THE "LEFT SIDE" CAN BE VIEWED AS PLACE OF SECOND HONOR IN

regards to the King, look at King Saul-Jonathan his son on his Right, Abner, the commander of his army on the Right. (Judges ch. 2)

"The cup" referred to by Our Lord in verse 22-23 of our passage is figurative language referring to a Divinely Appointed destiny. When James and John in verse 22, proclaim they can drink "the cup" Jesus assures them they will. I tend to think of them saying - oh oh!

In verse 25 we see our Lord clearly referring the Roman overlords to contrast with God's way, but also the current world view. As the ancient Greek Sophists declared: "Now can a man be happy if he must serve someone" (7)

### Key Word Definitions

v. 26

"SERVANT" #1249 ~~diakonos~~ (diakonos) ONE who works to maintain a MASTER'S house.

v. 27

"SLAVE" #1401 (doulos) lived to protect and make a better life for their owner.

\* THESE WERE THE TWO LOWEST POSITIONS IN THAT SOCIETY.

v28 "Ransom" #3083 (Lytron) The price of  
RELEASE FOR A SLAVE.

## Further Application of MAN Principles

"1) My Life: I AM FREE - ONCE I'VE APPLIED  
this principle - to be ABOUT THE FATHER'S  
BUSINESS, LEAVING HUMAN RESOURCE ISSUES  
to God. Further, it helps ME in MY  
Life - A Life of SERVANTHOOD - to be in  
SUBJECTION to those whom HE HAS PLACED  
OVER ME, UNLESS they blatantly trans-  
gress in some HORRIFIC MANNER, LIKE  
DEALING DRUGS WHILE ASSUMING THE  
pulpit.

IN PRISON: IN THIS I AM CHALLENGED  
greatly on this yord. THE ABOVE OUTLINED  
SCENARIO IS A REALITY, OR IT WAS 3-4  
MONTHS BACK, WITHOUT THE MAN RECLUSING  
HIMSELF FROM LEADERSHIP. I'VE BEEN IN  
SO MUCH PAIN! I JUST THINK THE MOST  
LOVING THING I CAN DO IS TO FIRE HIM AS  
MY LEADER, HOPING HE'LL COME AROUND TO  
ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS ACTIONS,

repent, work a program, and start fresh. GRACE upon GRACE, yet RECOUNTABLE.  
It's so hard!

"Out there": As I go about answering the call of Matt. 28:18-20 I can teach others to trust His Will in Leadership.

#2) My Life: I need to always remember I am to SERVE not be LORD & MASTER. I will seek the good of others ABOVE my own

In Prison: I will serve as a SERVANT SLAVE - as outlined in word study - those whom God has called to be members of the Body of Christ. My life is not my own, I've been bought with a great price. (1 Cor. 7:23)

Out there: As I go about MAKING A living I will gently LEAD those placed UNDER ME with the goal of their advancement. LEAD others to their ultimate benefit, not ~~being~~ my own.