



Be Strong! ...Matthew 20:17-28

"And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way He said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and He will be raised on the third day." Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to Him with her sons, and kneeling before Him she asked Him for something. And He said to her, "What do you want?" She said to Him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at My right hand and at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father." And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." *Matthew 20:17-28*

*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, **be strong**. Let all that you do be done in love.
...1Corinthians 16:13-14*

An Important Point... Our proximity to Jesus determines our success!

A Strong Man is a... *Note the meaning and examples of each characteristic explained in today's message...*

1. Sabbath Man... *...Always prepared to give God our best.
...Matthew 20:20-21*

2. Persevering Man...
...Matthew 20:22

3. Humble Man...
... Matthew 20:23

4. Serving Man...

Group Discussion

1. What does it mean and how does it look in your daily life to **Be Strong**...based on today's teaching?

2. Do you get more concerned about your status or position than you do faithfully following Jesus?

...Discuss your answer with your Group.

3. Being a Strong Man means bearing another's burdens, and taking responsibility for things that are not your fault ...as Jesus did. Mankind's sin was "not His fault", but He took full responsibility for it so that we could have salvation through Him, and a relationship with Him...2Corinthians 5:21.

Take turns **READING** the verses below, out-loud with your Group, and **describe Jesus' example of being a servant, and in what ways we can do the same in our own lives.**

- Matthew 20:25-28
- 2Corinthians 5:21
- John 13:1-15
- 1John 3:16-18

4. How is strength and security demonstrated in humility? Are you constantly self-promoting, or do you actually trust God with your life? How is this reflected in the way you live and the decisions you make?

5. In what ways does the busyness in your life keep you from important time with your wife and your kids, or other people that God has placed in your care?

6. What is there in your life that actually prevents you from regular faithful time talking with God and reading His Word?

Defining TRUE STRENGTH... *"True strength and the measure of a man is not found in position, possessions, or power...but in the PERSON and work of our Lord Jesus Christ in your life."*

Prayer

Take a few moments to share any Prayer Requests with the men in your Group. Write down any requests and commit to pray for one another throughout the week.

(It's great to know that other guys are praying for the important things in your life...and it's great to be praying for the important things in their lives!)

How do the **5 Principles for the Christian Man**, help equip you to apply this to your life?

Discuss your answer with your group...

- Prayer (*Relationship*)
- God's Word (*Knowledge and Understanding*)
- Worship (*Adoration*)
- Fellowship (*Encouragement and Accountability*)
- Service (*Caring for Others, Action to your Belief*)