**Getting ready for the Kingdom**

**MAIN IDEA - The Kingdom: A reward for Him, an opportunity for us**

**Matthew 20:20-28**

* **Preceding context: Jesus teaching about the Kingdom, then His suffering and death**
* **20:20-21 – The mother of James and John request positions of honor next to Jesus in the Kingdom**
* **20:22-23 – Jesus explains that those positions need to be earned, but that the Father is the One who makes the decisions about the outcome**
* **20:24 – The other disciples were “greatly displeased,” probably wishing the positions for themselves, based on the following teaching of Jesus**
* **20:25-28 – Far from scolding the disciples for wanting those positions, Jesus teaches them *how* to obtain them**
  + **The Gentiles (unbelievers) use their authority incorrectly (25)**
  + **We are not to follow their example, but instead be servants (26)**
  + **If we want to be great in the kingdom, we have to be a servant (27)**
  + **Jesus is our example of servanthood, even to the point of death (28)**

**John 13:1-17**

* **Context of the teaching: John 13:1-3**
  + **Jesus knows His mission**
  + **Part of that is to get His disciples ready to live together**
* **The foot-washing 13:4-10**
* **The lessons**
  + **God-to-humanity forgiveness: Complete and daily**
  + **Servanthood involves forgiveness and impacts reward**
  + **Person-to-person forgiveness**
  + **The basis of it all: Matt. 18:21-35; Eph. 4:29-32; Mt. 6:14-15**

**Some final thoughts**