

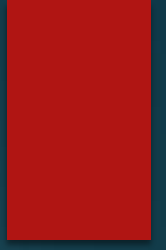


Everyday Lessons From Jesus: The Human Heart

09/17/2023 – MATTHEW 20:20-28

EMMANUEL CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Chinese Proverb



眼闊肚窄

“Eyes Wide
Narrow Stomach”

Three Truths

- ▶ The Problem of the Human Heart
- ▶ The Intention for the Human Heart
- ▶ The Solution to the Human Heart

Matthew 20:20-28 (ESV)



20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something.

21 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."

22 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."

23 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."


24 And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.

25 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.

26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,

27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,

28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



The Problem Of The Human Heart

Tiger Mom?

20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something.

21 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."

22 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."

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The Idea



Matt 19:28


Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Two Levels to the Problem



- The human heart often sees God's kingdom from a worldly perspective
- The human heart has the tendency to hear what it wants to hear and not listen to everything that needs to be listened to

In One Ear and Out The Other



Matt 20:17-19

17 And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, 18 “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 19 and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”

Bottomline of the Problem



... without realizing it, many of us attempt to live in God's kingdom with the same heart we had when we were in the worldly kingdom ...



The Intention For The Human Heart

What Not To Do



“You know that **the rulers** of the Gentiles **lord it over them**, and their **great ones exercise authority over them.**”

What To Strive For



“But whoever would be **great** among you must be your **servant**, 27 and whoever would be **first** among you must be your **slave**,

“διάκονος”

- Servant who fulfills household responsibilities
- Ministers of the Gospel and deacons in Paul's letters

Humility



Philippians 2:3-4

“3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Be versus Do



- Teacher ... Teach
- Speaker ... Speak
- Servant ... Serve
- Slave ... Submit your will



The Solution To The Human Heart

The King's Example



“28 even as the **Son of Man** came not to be served **but to serve**, and **to give his life as a ransom for many.**”

Jesus the Servant and Slave



Phil 2:5-8

“5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a **servant**, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he **humbled** himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

The Reason



“16 By this we know **love**, that he laid down his life for us”

The Result



“and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”



Conclusion

眼闊肚窄 IS A RECIPE FOR A WORLDLY HEART...

BUT 眼窄肚闊 FOR JESUS SHOULD LEAD TO A GODLY HEART