

How to Recognize Spiritual Growth in You You Seek to Serve Others

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – September 29, 2019

[Matthew 20:16-21, 24-28](#)

16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." 17 Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, 18 "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!" 20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. 21 "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." 22-23... 24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

I. SELF-CENTEREDNESS COMES VERY NATURALLY FOR US

[Matthew 20:20-21](#)

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons (James & John) came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. 21 "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

2. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO PUT OTHERS FIRST

[Matthew 20:25-27](#)

25 Jesus called them together and said... 26 "... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—"

3. JESUS DEMONSTRATES SELFLESSNESS, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS US TO LIVE IT OUT

[Matthew 20:28](#)

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

[Galatians 5:22-23](#)

22 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control...

[John 13:1-16](#)

1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. 2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6-11... 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."