

Kingdom Culture

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# **THE CULTURE OF HUMILITY**

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favour of him.

<sup>21</sup> "What is it you want?" he asked.

Matthew 20:20-28

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."

Matthew 20:20-28

22 “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?”

“We can,” they answered.

Matthew 20:20-28

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

Matthew 20:20-28

<sup>24</sup> When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> 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.

Matthew 20:20-28

<sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— <sup>28</sup> 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.”

Matthew 20:20-28



<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him

Matthew 4:21-22

<sup>56</sup> Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

<sup>40</sup> Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome.

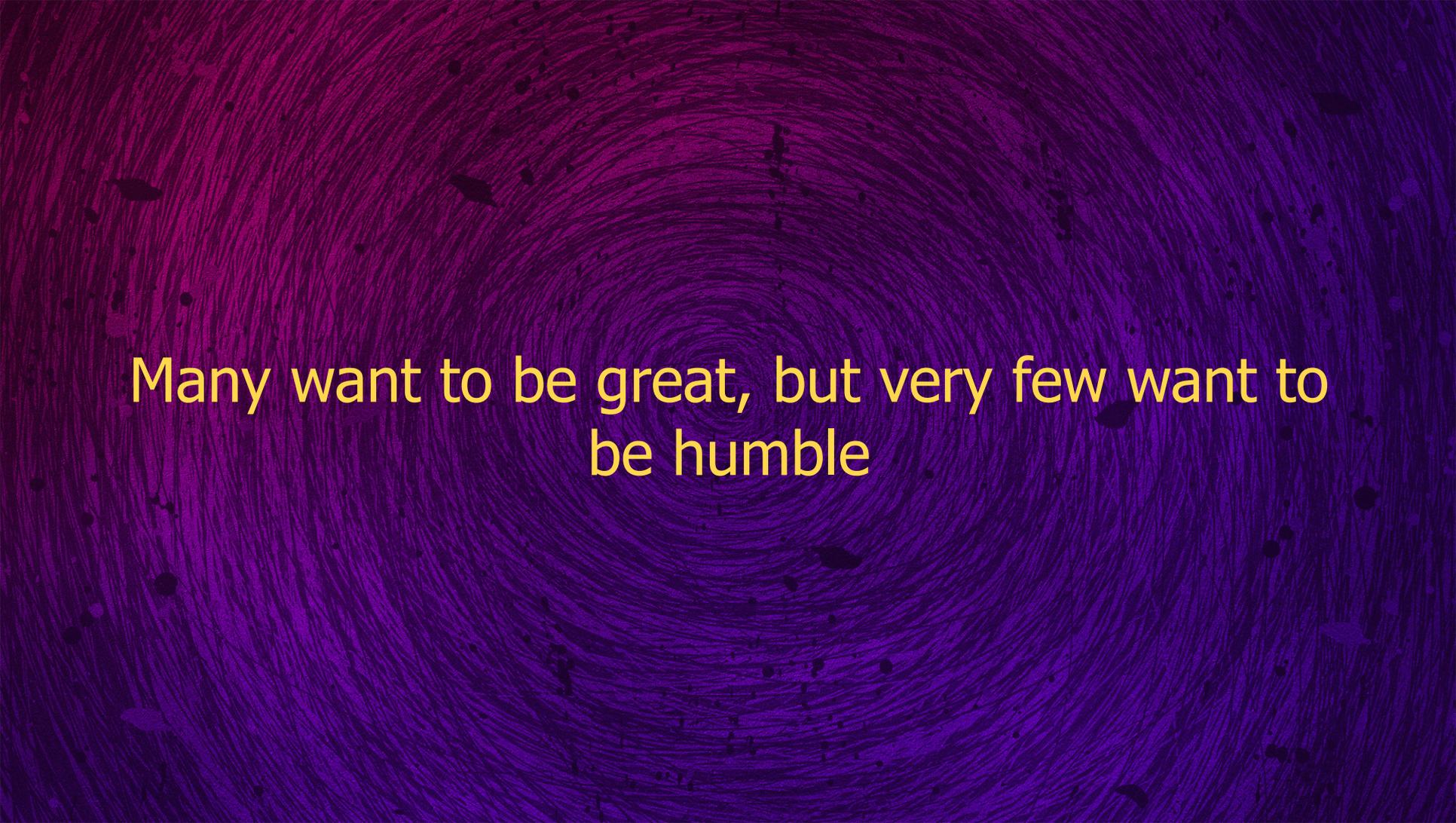
Matthew 27:56 & Mark 15:40-41

<sup>17</sup> James son of Zebedee and his brother John  
(to them he gave the name Boanerges, which  
means "sons of thunder")

Mark 3:17

<sup>23</sup> One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved...

John 13:23



Many want to be great, but very few want to  
be humble

# Kingdom Culture

## **1) Great Expectations** (vs. 20-22)

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favour of him. <sup>21</sup> "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." <sup>22</sup> "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them.

Matthew 20:20-22

You can have the right posture, but have the  
wrong petition

<sup>19</sup> After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and **he sat at the right hand of God.**

Mark 16:19

Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also **interceding for us.**

Romans 8:34

God raised us up with Christ and **seated us  
with him** in the heavenly realms in Christ  
Jesus

Ephesians 2:6

In our pursuit for greatness, we often try to dethrone Jesus so that we have His seat, but we do not realize that it is only through Jesus that we have the hope of a seat at all.



When the kingdom of God is at the forefront of  
our minds, humility always follows

# Kingdom Culture

## **2) Great Cost** (vs. 22-23)

Jesus said to them, "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered.  
<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

Matthew 20:22-23

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

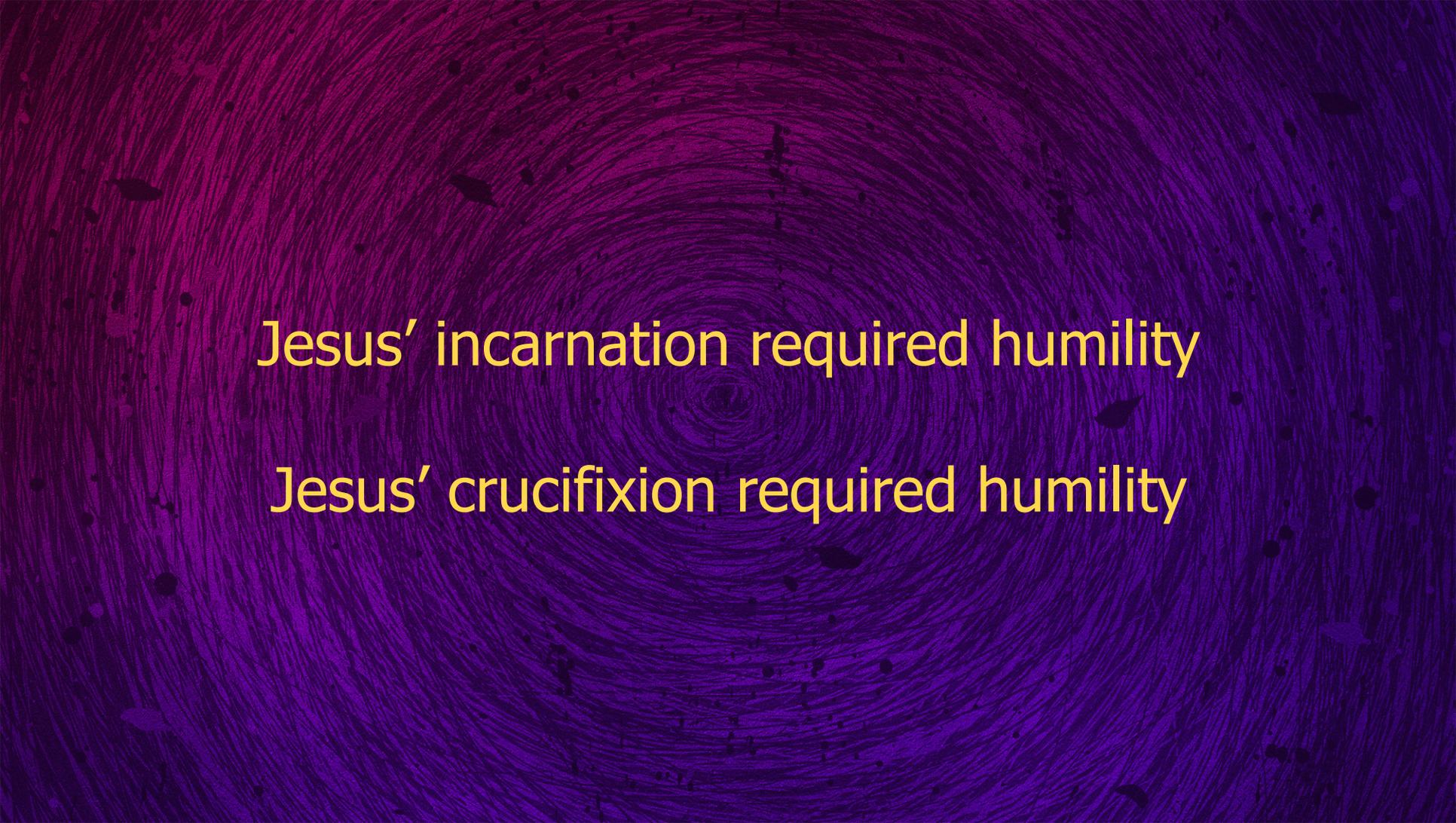
Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11



Jesus' incarnation required humility

Jesus' crucifixion required humility

Humility is not believing that you can do everything (you are limitless); that is false humility. Real humility is recognizing that you cannot do everything (you are limited) and your need for a Saviour

<sup>1</sup> It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. <sup>2</sup> He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

Acts 12:1-2

<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Revelation 1:9

# Kingdom Culture

## **3) Great Standard** (vs. 24-28)

<sup>24</sup> When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> 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.

Matthew 20:24-28

<sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— <sup>28</sup> 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.”

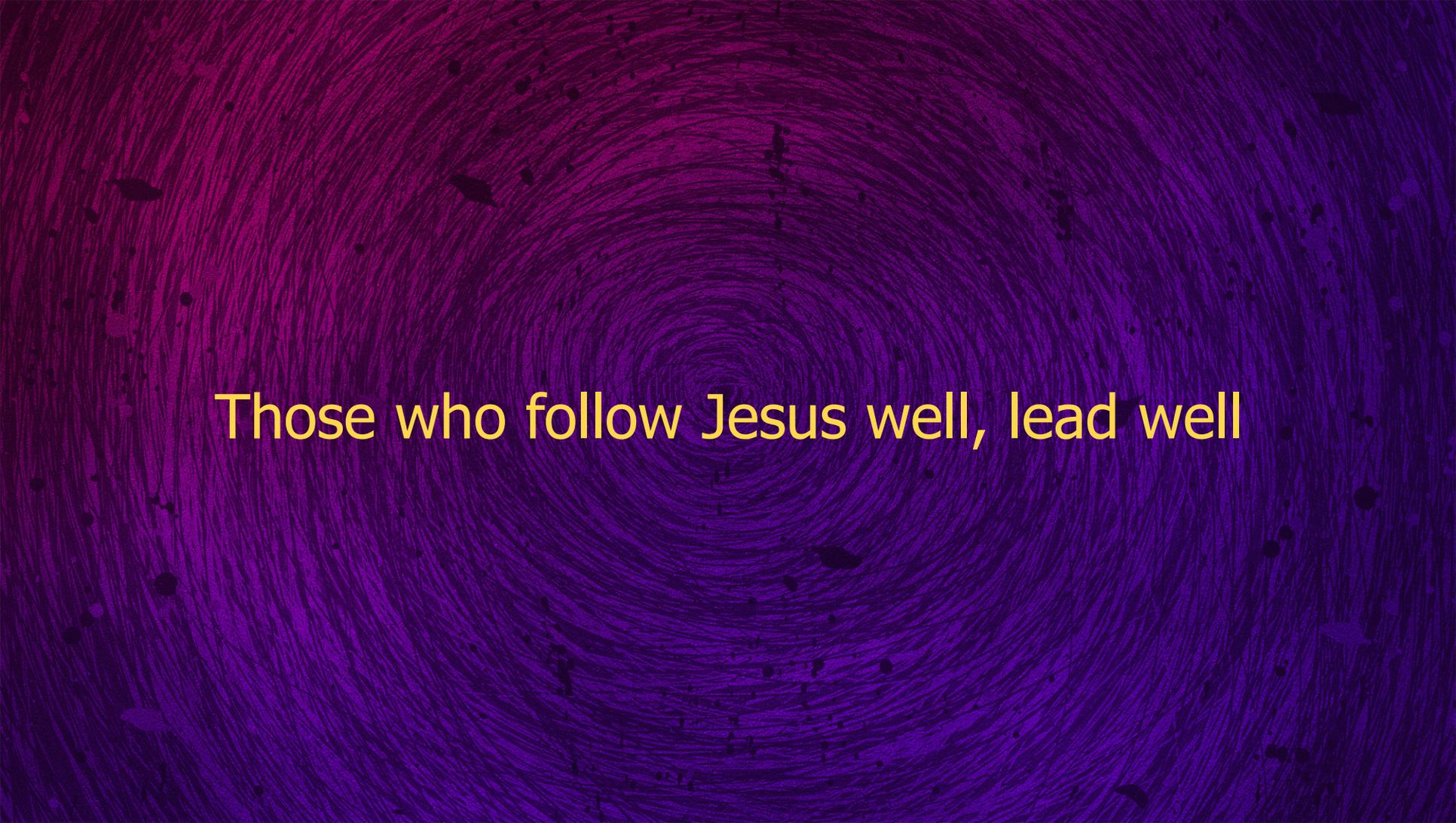
Matthew 20:24-28

# **A) Leadership Reversed**

According to kingdom culture, you are the  
product of who you follow

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you.”

Matthew 20:25-26



Those who follow Jesus well, lead well



Who are you following?



## **B) Greatness Reversed**

“Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”

Matthew 20:26a

“God serves you everyday of your life with heartbeats, and breath, and food, and rising sun, and rain, and the Holy Spirit to enable you to do what you need to do, and lavish forgiveness, you are being served all day long, everyday, by one and from one you deserve nothing. My, how it should affect us!”

- John Piper -

<sup>30</sup> He must become greater [or increase]; I must become less [or decrease].

John 3:30

### **3) Slavery Reversed**

<sup>15</sup> Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother.

Philemon 1:15-16

What Philemon did for Onesimus, Jesus did for us; yet another picture of the gospel

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble." <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:5-7

For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isaiah 57:15

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