

First Things Last

Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 435-437, 548-551



Think of a time when you wanted to be first. Were you in line, or playing a game? What does the Bible say about trying to be number one?

James and John were two of Jesus' disciples. They had been with Jesus from the beginning, and they wanted to be His favorite helpers. Imagine that they are talking with each other about this.

What a kingdom Jesus is going to have!" exclaimed James. "It will be richer than any kingdom that has ever been!"

"It will be great because Jesus is fair," said John. "I am glad that I have been with Jesus since the very first. We will be an important part of the new kingdom."

"That's right," said James. "You will sit at Jesus' right hand in the new kingdom, and I will sit at the left."

"Do you really think so?" questioned John. "Peter thinks he will be number one, not to mention Judas and Simon the Zealot. If we want to be first, we need to

talk to Jesus and make sure."

John thought about Jesus and how humble He was. "But will Jesus be happy listening to us talk about being first?"

James spoke. "We need to ask about first place before some others do. We want to be near Him so we can do things His way. I know, let's get Mother to ask Him."

It was not long before their mother arrived and they told her of their plan. She went to Jesus and smiled. "Will you do something for me?"

Jesus looked at her kindly. "What would you like Me to do?" He asked.

"In Your kingdom, let my sons be on Your right

side and Your left side," she

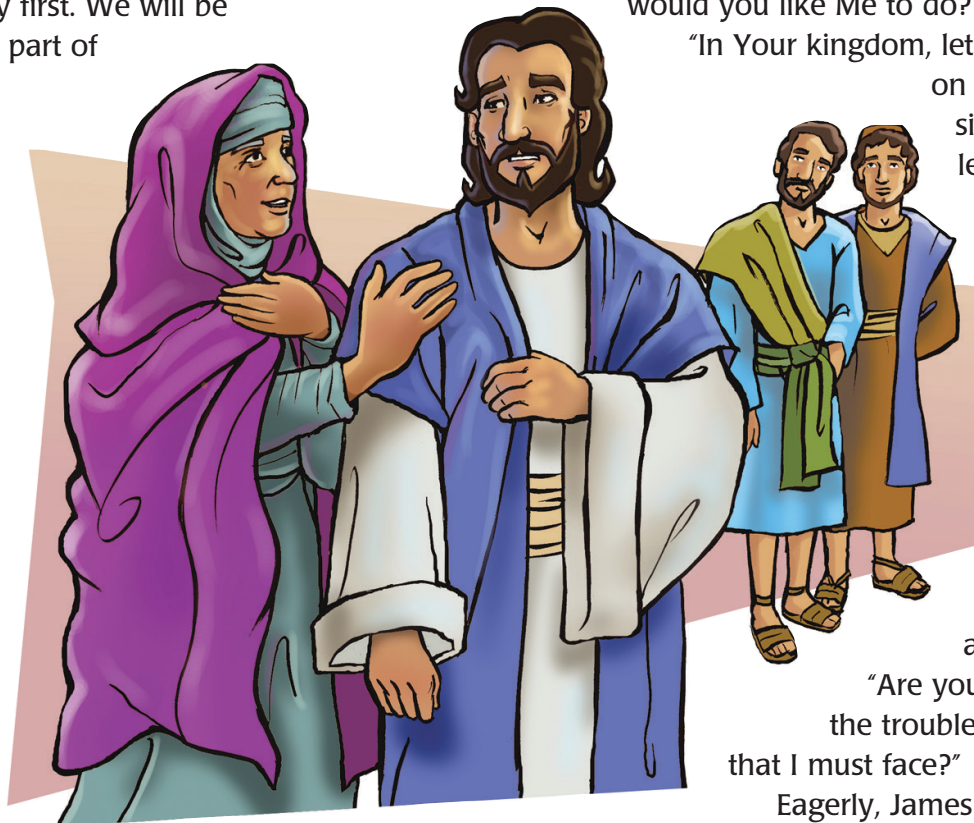
said. "They will do the things You want."

Jesus' face became sad. He turned to James and John.

"Are you able to face the trouble and the pain that I must face?"

Eagerly, James and John answered, "Oh, yes, Lord, we can face Your troubles."

Jesus replied. "Yes, you will face My



The Message

Jesus wants me to put others first.

Memory Verse

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant"

(Mark 10:43, NIV).

problems and deal with My pain. But I must tell you, that it is not My job to give out positions in God's kingdom. My Father has a plan for each of you. He is the One who will decide about positions in the kingdom."

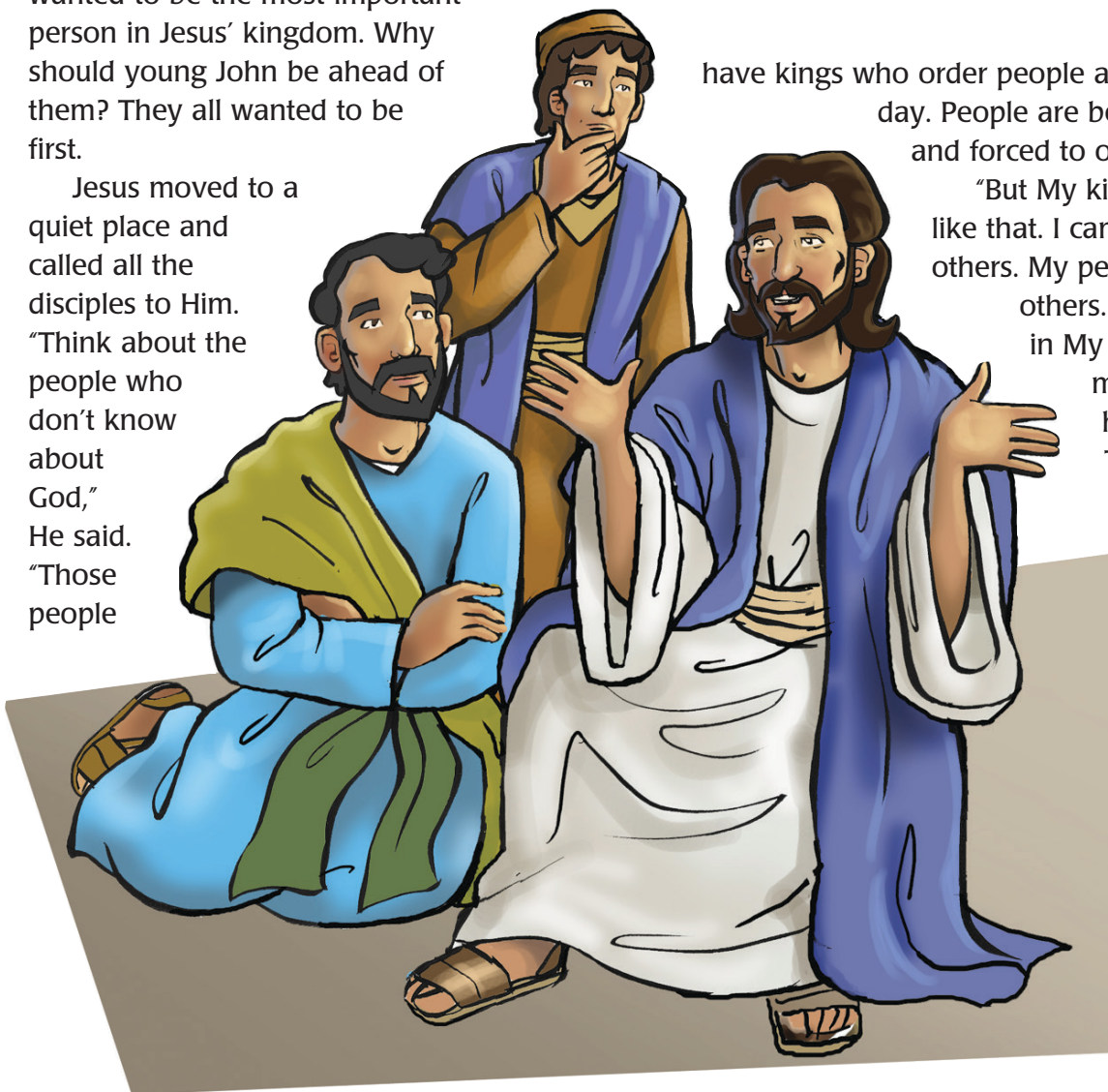
There was a sputter from behind Jesus. The other disciples were angry! Each one wanted to be the most important person in Jesus' kingdom. Why should young John be ahead of them? They all wanted to be first.

Jesus moved to a quiet place and called all the disciples to Him. "Think about the people who don't know about God," He said. "Those people

have kings who order people around every day. People are beaten down and forced to obey.

"But My kingdom is not like that. I came to serve others. My people must serve others. To be a leader in My kingdom, you must first learn how to serve. That is how My kingdom works."

Jesus' kingdom is still like that. He asks everyone in His kingdom to be unselfish. He wants us to put others first.





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, have lunch outside with your family. Help serve family members and guests. Read about being a servant in Mark 10:43.

READ After dinner, read your Bible lesson story together.

SING Sing "Love at Home" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 137). Plan to put your family members first this week. Ask Jesus to help you.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship read and discuss Matthew 20:20, 21. Who were Zebedee's sons? (Read Mark 10:35.) Write their names here. _____ and _____. How many other boys' names can you think of that begin with J?

DO On paper, make one large outline of the number 1 for each word of the memory verse. Cut them out. Write one word of your memory verse on each. Write the Scripture reference on the last cutout. Mix up the words, then arrange them in the proper order.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, discuss the request that James and John's mother made. What do you think about it? What did Jesus think about it? Read and discuss Matthew 20:22, 23.

DO If you made a "First Place Certificate" in Sabbath School, deliver it today. If not, make one and give it to someone. Explain that you will do something to help them today.

DO Arrange your memory verse cutouts and say the verse.

SING Sing "Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 126), then pray that God will help you to be a servant to others.

Jesus' disciples, James and John, were called the sons of thunder because of their tempers.



T U E S D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Matthew 20:24. Think about the ten disciples. Draw what their faces would have looked like when they heard James and John's request.

THINK Have you ever acted as James and John did?

DO Arrange your memory verse cutouts and say the verse. Then pray that you will be God's servant today and every day.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE Read and discuss Matthew 20:25, 26 for family worship.

THINK Think of a Bible story different from your lesson that is about putting others first. Tell it to your family.

DO God wants people to serve and put each other first. Think of animals that serve people. Write one here. _____ Tell your family about it.

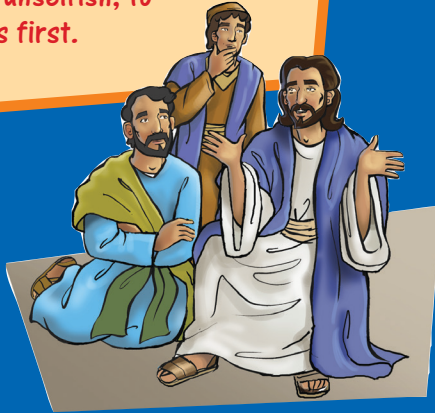
DO From memory, arrange your memory verse cutouts in the proper order.



THURSDAY

DO During family worship, read and discuss Matthew 20:27, 28. Whom should you put first—yourself or others? Why?

DO Say your memory verse without help, then pray that God will help you and your family to be unselfish, to always put others first.



FRIDAY

DO Act out your Bible lesson story with your family. Then say your memory verse together.

SHARE Share with your family an experience from this week of putting others first. Tell how it felt to put others ahead of yourself. Ask them to share too.

DO Read and discuss Galatians 5:13 together.

SING Sing together "Pass It On" (He Is Our Song, no. 130) with the following words:

It only takes a spark to get a kind act going, / And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing; / For Jesus made the golden rule; once I experience it, / I will be kind to everyone; / I want to pass it on.

First Things Last

PUZZLE

Directions: To find out what the Bible says about being first, decipher the following code. Match the symbol with its letter.

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A B E F H I L R S T W