

Tiger Mom meets the Gospel

Matthew 20:20-28

Tiger Mom : a strict or demanding mother who pushes her child or children to high levels of achievement, especially by using methods regarded as typical of child-rearing in China and other parts of East Asia; a tiger mother.

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

Background information:

- Jesus predicts his death for the _____

“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 and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.” Matt 20:18-19

- Zebedee’s family knew what success _____

And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Mat 4:21-22

What does success look like for you?

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.” Mat 20:21

No _____, No _____

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.” Mat 20:22

“Thus the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: ‘Take from my hand this *cup* of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.’” Jer 25:15

“O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the *cup* of his wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering.” Is 51:17

Are you willing to pay the _____?

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.” And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. Mat 20:23-24

God’s definition of success is _____

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. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant... Mat 20:25-26

Servant (*diakonos*): a person working in the service of another, waited on others. An office in the church, deacons.

...and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mat 20:27-28

Slave (*doulos*): a person who is legally owned by someone else and whose entire livelihood and purpose was determined by their master.

Jesus is our _____

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. Phil 2:5-7

The cost of success is _____

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? Mat 16:24-26

Discussion Questions:

- What are some your definitions of success? As a child growing up, what definitions of success did you hear? What are some of the cultural definitions of success?
- Share some challenges you experience when you endeavor to serve others. What are some obstacles, challenges, or joys that you have experienced?
- What are some ways which you have seen those in your group serve one another?
- Are there limits to serving others?
- How can you serve those in the church? How can you serve those outside the church?