



Part 4: Influence

Feeling like we're out of control can be really intimidating. In our relationships and families, we can be tempted to try to use whatever power we have to get people to do what we want them to. That's a dead end but there is an even more impactful way to build and use influence.

Scripture: Matthew 20:20-28

Discussion Questions

1. On Sunday Pastor Dave said that we earn influence by sacrificing for others. Have you seen this principle in action? Are there people who have significant influence on your life because of the way they have sacrificed for you? How have they impacted your life?
2. Can you think of a time when you felt like your home life was out of control? What made it chaotic? Did things get resolved over time? What were some of the keys to getting through that time as an individual, spouse, parent, etc.?
3. Read Matthew 20:20-28 together.
4. How do you think the sons of Zebedee and their mother were expecting Jesus to respond? What was it that they wanted? What does Jesus mean when he talks about his 'cup'? How does Jesus change the predominant way of thinking in his answer of this request?
5. In verses 26-27, Jesus teaches his followers to aspire to be servants and slaves. What objections or struggles might we have about that? What is the point of what Jesus is teaching? Is it a practical way to live? Is it an enjoyable way to live? Why or why not?
6. Jesus teaches that rather than seeking power, his follower should seek to serve sacrificially. How do you think that principle could be applied and lived out in your personal life in how you relate to your friends, coworkers, spouse, or kids?

Moving Forward

Spend some time praying for each other. Are there struggles or challenges that you are facing at home? Take time to encourage one another and lift each other up in prayer.