

# Friday, March 19

Today's Reading: Matthew Chapter 20

Today's Devotional Message is by Scott Bowles

*When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:24-28*

Thinking back to my elementary school days, I can remember that our class would often have bathroom breaks that also included a drink of water at the water fountain down the hall. It seems like those breaks were hours and hours apart, but I'm sure they were just a couple. It was always an exciting time when the teacher would announce to the class that it was time for a break. We would all put down our pencils, open up our desks and put our books away and wait for the teacher to tell us to line up at the door. When she gave the order, it was like a mad rush. Pandemonium would break out and when the dust cleared, there was always a kid or two that would be grabbed by the arm and taken from the front of the line and placed at the very back of the line. Sometimes they were even left out altogether and had to wait back in the classroom and would lose their break privileges for the day.

Often in our own grownup lives today, yes even in our adult life, we selfishly run to get the first position, only thinking of ourselves and not others. Jesus says that as Christians, we are to be different. He takes everything that comes naturally to our sinful selves and turns it upside down. He says if we want to lead, we must serve. If we want to be first, we must be last or become a slave.

Let's use Jesus as our guide instead of television shows like Survivor or the Apprentice where people often scheme, lie and do whatever it takes to win. Let us learn to become servants to our fellow man and reap the eternal rewards in heaven.