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*Matthew 20 (ESV)*

*20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. 21 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.” 22 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.”*

2

*Matthew 20 (ESV)*

*23 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.” 24 And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. 25 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. 26 It shall not be so among you.”*

3

*Matthew 20 (ESV)*

*“But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

4

## The Point

True strength is not found in Position, Possessions, or Power but in the PERSON and Work of Jesus.

### *Strong Believer*

- Sabbath
- Perseverance
  - Humble
  - Servant

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## SABBATH RHYTHM



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## Sabbath Rhythm

- Strength begins with rest in Jesus.
- True strength isn't constant activity; it's knowing when to stop & be with the Lord.
- God designed a rhythm of rest — six days of work, one day of Sabbath (Genesis 2:2–3).
- Busyness can weaken our faith.

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## Sabbath Rhythm

- The world praises being busy, but busyness often crowds out God.
- “If the devil can't make you bad, he'll make you busy.”
- The Sabbath is about relationship, not rules.
- The purpose of rest is to realign our hearts with God, declaring He is first in all things.

(Exodus 20:8–10)

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### Sabbath Rhythm

*8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.*

*(Exodus 20:8–10 ESV)*

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### Sabbath Rhythm

- Rest shows trust in God's provision.
- Israel rested one day a week, believing God would provide enough in six days (Exodus 16:22–30).
- Strength comes from being near Jesus, not from doing more.
- The mother of James & John knelt at Jesus' feet — the right posture of dependence & worship.

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**PERSEVERANCE**

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### Perseverance

- Perseverance means enduring pain with purpose.
- Jesus endured the cross for our salvation.

*2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2 ESV)*

- True strength is revealed when we keep trusting God through suffering.

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Perseverance

- Jesus' "cup" was the suffering He accepted for our sins.
- He bore the wrath of God so we could drink from the cup of grace.

*42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."*  
*(Luke 22:42 ESV)*

13

Perseverance

- Strong faith stands firm even in trials.

*16 for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.*  
*(Proverbs 24:16 ESV)*

- God often uses hardship to build character.

*3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,*  
*(Romans 5:3-4 ESV)*

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Perseverance

- Persevering faith takes responsibility.
- Jesus took responsibility for sin that wasn't His fault — the ultimate act of love.

*21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*  
*(2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV)*

- Comfort is not the goal — faithfulness is.

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Perseverance

- In a world that avoids pain, Christians embrace perseverance for God's glory & others' good.

*2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*  
*(James 1:2-4 ESV)*

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## Humble Servants of God

- Jesus redefined greatness.
- The world says strength is power over others; Jesus says strength is lifting others up.

*3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3–4 ESV)*

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### Humble Servants of God

- Jesus modeled humility - He submitted to the Father's will & served others.

*14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. (John 13:14–15 ESV)*

- Even though He was Lord of all, He said, "I came not to be served, but to serve." (Matthew 20:28)

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### Humble Servants of God

- True strength submits to God's authority.
- Jesus showed humility before the Father: "Not my will, but Yours be done." (Luke 22:42)
- Humility is not weakness but confidence in God.
- When we rest in God's plan, we don't need to prove ourselves.
- Serving others reflects the heart of Jesus.
- Every act of kindness — holding a door, praying for someone, or offering a smile — reflects Jesus' love.

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### Practical Application

- Spend time daily in prayer & Scripture as “spiritual rest.”
- Trust God with your schedule & let go of unnecessary worry.
- Be patient with others — strength is shown in gentleness.
- Take responsibility for your words & actions, not blaming others.
- When life hurts, remember God is shaping your faith through it.

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### Practical Application

- Look for small ways to serve others each day.
- Speak encouraging words — they build others up.
- Practice humility by thanking others often.
- Forgive quickly — it shows spiritual strength.
- Remember that Jesus is your source of power & peace every day.

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### Discussion Questions

- What do you think Jesus meant by saying, “The greatest among you will be your servant”?
- What does it mean to persevere in faith when we face health or aging challenges?
- How can humility bring peace to our relationships?
- How do you see the difference between worldly strength and spiritual strength?
- What is one way you can serve others this week to reflect Jesus’ heart?

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