

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for April 26, 1987**

**How to be Great in the Kingdom**  
**Dale Whitehead**

Introduction: Since the fall, man has always been self-oriented. The way to greatness is not through serving ourselves but serving others.

Pushing, shoving, bumping for position seems to be the normal way of going about life.

**Verses 20-21:** Here we see a request for position. The attitude of the request is one of self-serving. How could this woman be so bold as to ask for these positions for her sons? The mother of James and John is Salome, who is the sister of Jesus' mother. So James and John are Jesus' cousins; she is Jesus' aunt.

Jesus replies, "You do not know for what you are asking." She does not and James and John do not understand that positions of honor in the kingdom are attained through suffering.

Jesus says, "My cup you shall drink." Jesus is predicting the suffering James and John will encounter and upon hearing this, the ten become indignant. All twelve have self-serving attitudes.

Jesus calls them together in **verse 25** and explains the self-service of the rulers of the Gentiles.

Serving in the position of authority is not "lording it over them."