



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Jesus: The True King**  
**Speaker: Helen Kim Nowalk, Pastor of Community Life**  
**Scripture: Matthew 20:20-28**

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

<sup>21</sup> "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

<sup>22</sup> "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

<sup>24</sup> When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (NIV)

**Sermon Outline:**

Kings in the Bible were meant to rule as God led but they would use their power on their own behalf.

Whether we realize it or not, we all have power in our lives – in our homes, with our families, in our workplace and in our neighborhoods. The world that we live in often views power as a means to help us move away from suffering.

In today's scripture, we see James and John looking to find a way to not to experience suffering. They did not understand the truth of what asking to be sat at Jesus's right and left hand meant. Jesus explains to them that in order for them to obtain power, they must first become servants and slaves.

Jesus lives out what he is saying to the disciples. In Matthew 27, we see Jesus receiving the crown of thorns that the soldiers made to be placed on his head. The soldiers could not have known that in crowning Jesus, they fulfilled Jesus's coronation where he used his power to come on our behalf. This is why Jesus came - to serve. The moment of Jesus's death was not one of utter defeat but one of life.

The question that we must answer is whether or not we will come and follow Jesus by living in the way of the cross? We cannot be following a king who gave his life and say that we will be living a life of luxury and a life of the cross. Suffering, which is a very real cost, is part of the way of following Jesus.

**Society defines power:**

- Over others
- Provides distance from suffering

**Jesus defines power:**

- Serves others
- Involves suffering

How does this apply to us today?

1. Name the power you have.
2. Do you increase the suffering of others, or do you suffer to empower others?
3. How can you use your power on behalf of others?

Our freedom was costly, and Jesus paid that cost. We are to remember that we worship a God who uses his power to serve others.

**Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, Helen Kim Nowalk, Pastor of Community Life, continues our series entitled, *Jesus: Prophet, Priest and King*. Pastor Helen explores Jesus as the True King and who wields true power and gives us living examples of what it means to belong to His Kingdom.

**Sermon Questions:**

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin did you grow believing that to be powerful, you needed to exert your power over others so that they knew you were more powerful? If so, what did that look like for you? Can you find time this week for journal about these experiences, offering them up to God in your time of prayer?
3. How do you view power and what comes to your mind when you think of power? After today's sermon, do you view power differently? Where can you not use your power not for your own gain but to empower others? Offer your thoughts up to God and ask for any healing or wisdom you might need in your answers to these questions.
4. We all have power of some kind. Where is Jesus asking you to be costly and where is the cross in your use of power? We must give our lives at a cost to ourselves to help lift others up. It is costly to follow our King. See if you can find time this week to share your thoughts about where God might be leading you with a brother or sister in Christ.