

BEWARE OF THE

ME

monster



Beware of the Me Monster
How do you slay the Me Monster?
Matthew 20:20–28

Matthew 20:20–28

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.” **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. 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.”

How do you slay the Me Monster?

Selflessly Serve

- “**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. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave” (vv. 25–27).

- Culture’s Ambition = Prestige & Power
 - “Greatness among the Gentiles was measured by being in a position to ‘lord it over’ others and ‘exercise authority over’ others (20:25). A person who is a ‘ruler’ or ‘high official,’ can do whatever he wants with others and can serve his own wants. . . . In other words, the prevailing dictum in the world is that ruling, not serving, is the best status for a human” (Michael Wilkins, *Matthew*, 669).
 - “At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’” (Matthew 18:1).
 - “28 Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first” (Matthew 19:28–30).
- Jesus’ Ambition = Service & Slavery
 - “These are two of the lowest positions in society’s scale” (Michael Wilkins, *Matthew*, 669).
 - Service and slavery are opposed to prestige and power.
 - “Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of have more of it than the next man. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others” (C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 122).
 - “The essence of gospel-humility is not thinking more of myself or thinking less of myself, it is thinking of myself less” (Tim Keller, *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness*, 32).
 - To slay the Me Monster you must selflessly serve others

Faithfully Follow

- “even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (v. 28).
- Jesus never asks his disciples to do something he hasn’t done.
 - “5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:5–11).
- Jesus models selfless service.
 - He willingly serves
 - He serves for others

- To slay the Me Monster you must faithfully follow Jesus' example.

Next Steps:

- Don't overthink it. Just serve someone.
- Read the Gospels, study Jesus, discover how he served.
- Serve others like Jesus served.

To slay the Me Monster you must selflessly serve others and faithfully follow Jesus' example.