

October 20 Answers

- 1) The disciples began to argue about who was the greatest soon after Jesus told them about his coming **passion**. Jesus was thinking of suffering and **death**; the disciples were thinking of prestige and **position**. Jesus spoke of laying down his **life**; the disciples spoke of gaining future **power**. As an object lesson, Jesus called a little **child** and set him in their midst. “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 18:3). Jesus was not calling them to childishness of thought, but to **humility** of mind, for children are not caught up in debates over greatness, nor do they have lofty dreams of power. This teaches us that **greatness** is defined in terms of humility. The model for true discipleship is the simple humility of a child. In the same way that a child exemplifies a lack of **pride** and concern for **status**, we must put thoughts of greatness aside and labor to serve others. When Jesus wanted to illustrate **forgiveness**, he told his disciples about a man who had been forgiven a great **debt**. He wanted them to understand that they should forgive others because **God** had forgiven them. When we refuse to forgive, we **despise** God’s forgiveness and **scorn** His love. Is there anyone we need to forgive?