

**DON'T THROW IN  
THE TOWEL**





Words can emerge  
suddenly in time.

**Words can evolve  
slowly over time.**

How we choose to  
*use* words matters.

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How we choose to *define*  
words matters more.

**Greatness**

Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”

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Matthew 19:27 NIV

**“What’s in it for me” thinking  
will always be at the expense  
of someone around me.**



Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

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Matthew 19:28 NIV



And everyone who has left  
houses or brothers or sisters or  
father or mother or wife or  
children or fields for my sake will  
receive a hundred times as much  
and will inherit eternal life.

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Matthew 19:29 NIV

Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them,

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Matthew 20:17 NIV

**“We are going up to Jerusalem,  
and the Son of Man will be  
delivered over to the chief priests  
and the teachers of the law. They  
will condemn him to death**

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**Matthew 20:18 NIV**



and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

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Matthew 20:19 NIV

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

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Matthew 20:20 NIV

“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.”

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Matthew 20:21 NIV



**“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.**

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**Matthew 20:22 NIV**

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.”

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Matthew 20:23 NIV

When the ten heard about this,  
they were indignant with the two  
brothers.

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Matthew 20:24 NIV



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.

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Matthew 20:25 NIV

Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—

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Matthew 20:26-27 NIV

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.”

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Matthew 20:27-28 NIV



Those who serve self become  
small, but those who serve  
others become great.

**It is better to serve than be served.**

...so he got up from the meal,  
took off his outer clothing, and  
wrapped a towel around his  
waist.

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John 13:4 NIV



“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’  
and rightly so, for that is what I  
am. Now that I, your Lord and  
Teacher, have washed your feet,  
you also should wash one  
another’s feet.

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John 13:13-14 NIV

I have set you an example that  
you should do as I have done for  
you.

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John 13:15 NIV

Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

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John 13:16 NIV



Now that you know these things,  
you will be blessed if you do  
them.

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John 13:17 NIV

You can't find greatness until  
you lose your excuses.

**When Jesus took out his towel,  
He took away our excuses.**