

Read Mark 10:35-45

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." **36** "What is your request?" he asked.

37 They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left."

38 But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?"

39 "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!" Then Jesus told them, "You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering.

40 But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen." **41** When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant.

42 So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them.

43 But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, **44** and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else.

45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

What did James and John ask of Jesus (v. 35)? For Him to do anything they wanted.

When Jesus asked them what they wanted Him to do, what did they say they wanted (v. 36-37)? For them to be able to sit next to Jesus when He was sitting on His throne as King. They thought He was going to set up His kingdom in Jerusalem and they wanted the most important seats next to Jesus. But He was going to set up His kingdom in heaven.

How did Jesus respond (v. 38)? You don't know what you're taking about. Then He asked them if they could drink the same cup He was going to drink and if they could be baptized like He was going to be baptized.

What did Jesus mean by the cup and the baptism? He was talking about the suffering and death He would face on the Cross. **How did the disciples respond (v. 39)?** Yes, we can do that. They didn't realize what Jesus was talking about.

What did Jesus say then (vv. 39-40)? You're right. You will drink the same cup and be baptized like me because all of you will suffer and die when you become missionaries and share the Gospel the same way I have done. And then He said.....but whoever is going to sit in the seats at my right and my left is not for Me to choose. They have already been reserved. **I wonder who for?**

When they heard what was going on, what did the other 10 disciples think about all this (v. 41)? They were upset and jealous because they wanted to sit next to Jesus on His throne also and they thought James and John might be beating them out. They all were prideful. They all wanted to be important.

What did Jesus have to say to all of the disciples (vv. 42-45)? Quit trying to be like the world and get the most important and powerful seats next to the throne. That may be the way the world operates but that's not the way to become great in the Kingdom of God. The way to become great in the Kingdom of God is to be a servant to others -- just like Jesus who came to serve us and to give His life for us. **Who is someone you could serve like Jesus did? What could you do for them?**