

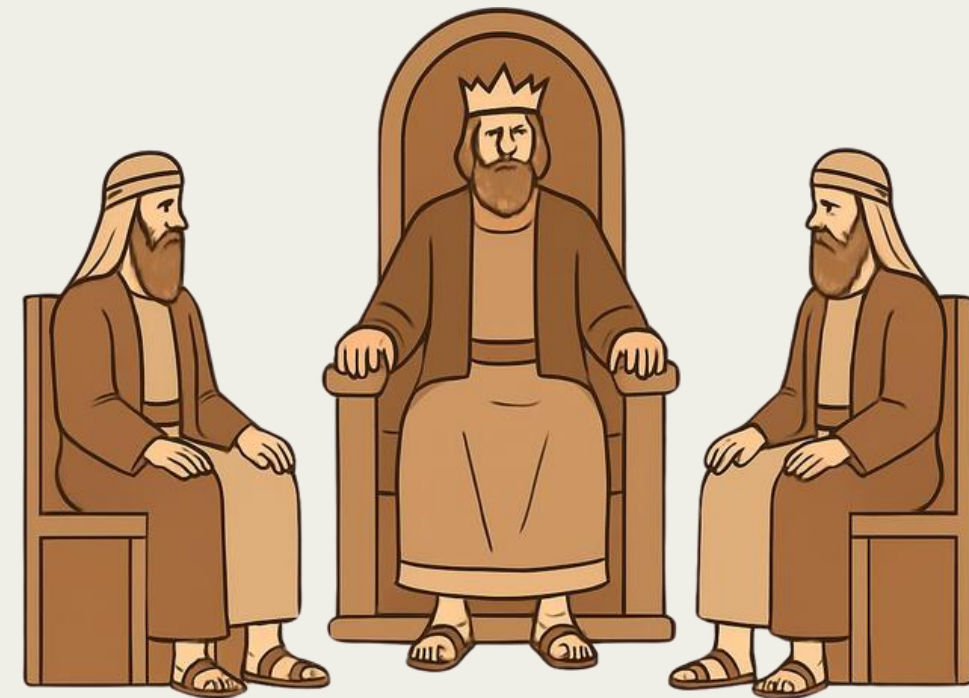
LEARNING FROM JESUS AND HIS ANSWERS

Ye Know Not What Ye Ask



Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.

Mark 10:35



Mark 10

³⁵ And **James and John**, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. ³⁶ And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? ³⁷ They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.

Lk 5:10 - they were fishermen

Mk 5:37; 9:2; 14:33 - along with Peter they were especially close to Jesus

Mk 3:17 - “sons of thunder”; cmp Lk 9:54

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we would that... - they ease into the question; cmp. Bathsheba in 1Ki 2

whatsoever we desire - bold request, but in line with Jesus advice
Mt 7:7; 18:19

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what was their motive? - scripture warns against judging motive 1Co 4:5; Ro 14:4

in thy glory - echo to Mt 19:28

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possible comparatives (?)

- Korah, Dathan and Abiram Nu 16:1-3
- Absalom 2Sa 15:4
- Adonijah 1Ki 1:5
- Haman Est 6:6
- Scribes and Pharisees Mk 12:38-39

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e.g. of those who judged wrong

- Eli assumed Hannah was drunk
1Sa 1:12-16

- Eliab assumed David had come to see the battle 1Sa 17:28-29

Mark 10

³⁸ But Jesus said unto them, **Ye know not what ye ask:** can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? ³⁹ And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized: ⁴⁰ But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.

ye know not what ye ask - Jesus answers them gently



Careful with assigning motive

Now, according to the popular view, here was the time to launch forth in condemnation of the earthliness and carnal misdirected ambition supposed to be indicated in the request; and doubtless the Saviour, who was never slow to correct the misconceptions of his disciples, nor even to rebuke with severity, would have done so if the request had really been of the nature to call for it; but how different from anything of this kind is his answer. Not a word of censure! not the softest whisper of implied rebuke!

Bro. Robert Roberts, Christendom Astray, Lecture 13

Mark 10

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right and left hand

- used in reference to positions of authority above others 1Ki 2:19; Ps 110:1; Mk 16:19; Ro 8:34; Co 3:1

- but also used of association Pr 3:16; Eze 16:46: 1Ki 22:19

It is beside the mark to condemn the request as a carnal misconception of the nature of the kingdom of Christ. Christ did not so treat it. It was a carnal request growing out of his own promise. It was wrong to desire preeminence; it was not wrong to desire to reign with him in his kingdom. This distinction is indicated in Christ's reply. He condemned the spirit of the request: "Ye know that the princes of the Gentile exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But, it shall not be so among you. But whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant, even as the Son of Man (who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many).

Bro. Robert Roberts, Nazareth Revisited

Mark 10

³⁸ But Jesus said unto them, **Ye know not what ye ask:** can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? ³⁹ And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized: ⁴⁰ But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.

ye know not what ye ask - Jesus answers them gently



The art of redirection

Mark 10

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drink of the cup

- reference to Jesus' suffering and crucifixion

Mt 26:39,42; Jn 18:11

- OT references to judgments Is 51:17,22; Je 25:15

baptized with the baptism

- reference to a life long dedication that would end in death Lk 12:50

- OT references Ps 69:14-15; 42:7; Jonah 2:3-5

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Ye shall indeed drink of the cup

- Herod slew James with the sword Acts 12:1-2
- John was a companion in tribulation Re 1:9
- “if we suffer, we shall also reign with him, if we deny him, he will also deny us” 2Ti 2:12
- association with sufferings = association with glory 2Co 1:5,7; Ro 8:17

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Ye know not what ye ask

- example of Israel asking for a king 1Sa 8:20



**A deep understanding
of God's ways**

Scriptural Redirection

Phillip → the Eunuch Acts 8

Aquila/Priscilla → Apollos Acts 18:26

Paul → the Corinthians 1Co 15:12

Jesus → Nicodemus Jn 3:10

Phillip was looking for the truth

Apollos had the truth but not all of it

The Corinthians lost a key first principle

Nicodemus was a master in Israel

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, **apt to teach**, patient, 25 **In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves;** if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.

2 Timothy 2:24-25

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, **ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness;** considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Galatians 6:1

3 And **they that be wise** shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and **they that turn many to righteousness** as the stars for ever and ever.

Daniel 12:3

16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 3:16

Matthew 20

²⁰ **Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons,** worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. ²¹ And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

the mother of Zebedee's children

- Salome - cmp. Mt 27:55-56; Mark 15:40; Jn 19:25
- Jesus's aunt

Matthew 27

⁵⁵ And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him: ⁵⁶ Among which was **Mary Magdalene**, and **Mary the mother of James and Joses**, and **the mother of Zebedee's children**.

Mark 15

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was **Mary Magdalene**, and **Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses**, and **Salome**.

John 19

²⁵ Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and **his mother's sister**, **Mary the wife of Cleophas**, and **Mary Magdalene**.

Mother of Zebedee's children = Salome = Jesus' Aunt

Matthew 20

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Le 19:5; Deut 1:17 - warning against showing favoritism

Deut 10:17; Ro 2:11; Acts 10:34-35 - God is no respecter of persons

1Sa 2:12-36; 8:1-3 - both Eli and Samuel fail with respect to their children

don't allow family dynamics to change our response

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And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

²² But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

Ye (not thou) - plural; Jesus responds to James and John not their mother



**good (direct)
communication**



Guiding Principles

Don't assume motive

The art of redirection

A knowledgeable and spiritual response

Care with family dynamics

Good (direct) communication

Matthew 20

²⁴ And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. ²⁵ But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. ²⁶ But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; ²⁷ And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Ye (not thou) - plural; Jesus responds to James and John not their mother



be aware of your own weaknesses

Tribute to Ceasar

Make use of questions and illustrations

Put truth before self interests

Learn spiritual perception

Guide the conversation to deeper issues

Seek to save others

The Great Commandment

Make time to answer questions

Don't miss the key point

Bible is the authority

Don't neglect any aspect of the Truth

A careful response can benefit others

Encourage action

Whose Wife Shall She Be?

Face doctrinal issues head on

Respect for Scripture - Inspiration

Respect for Scripture - over other sources

Measure against the whole of Bible teaching

Danger of humanist influences

Ye Know Not What Ye Ask

Don't assume motive

The art of redirection

A knowledgeable and spiritual response

Care with family dynamics

Good (direct) communication

Be aware of your own weaknesses