

Southside Baptist Church  
Wednesday Night Worship – 1-7-26  
Matthew Chapter 20 Part 3  
An interesting question from a mother.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

1) What we learned from the parable of the vineyard. Matthew 20:1-16

a) God's grace and sovereignty in this parable.

b) Motive does matter.

c) We do see with temporal eyes.

d) Respond in obedience.

2) Jesus spoke of His death for a third time with the disciples. Matthew 20:17-20

a) Verse 18 – "condemn" – a legal decision whereby they would declare Him guilty.

b) Verse 19 – "deliver him to the Gentiles to mock" – non-Jews to make fun of Him.

c) Verse 19 – "to scourge" – beaten with a whip.

d) Verse 19 – "to crucify him" – Roman pattern of execution.

b. Taking a look ahead:

1) Jesus wraps up this conversation and heads toward Jerusalem.

2) The mother of James and John comes to Jesus with a question.

3) Keep Matthew 19:28 in mind as we study this.

2. An interesting question from a mother. Matthew 20:20-28

a. Can we discern her motive here?

1) Matthew recorded the mother of James and John coming to Jesus with a question.

2) Culturally – a position on the right or left hand of a ruler was a place of honor and authority.

3) Did James and John know she was going to ask that question?

b. Verses 20-21 –

1) Does this cause us to think poorly of her?

2) A little equipping is needed here and should be remembered.

a) Read Matthew 20:20-21 with Mark 10:35.

b) It can be common in biblical narratives and in everyday life, for someone to speak on behalf of others or for a request to be attributed to the individuals who ultimately desire something, even if someone else voices it.

c) Matthew emphasizes the role of the mother in presenting the request, while Mark emphasizes the sons as the ones behind the request.

3) Verse 21 – "Grant" – "Promise me that" or "I want you to give orders that..."

c. Jesus responds. Verse 22

1) Verse 22 –

a) "But Jesus answered" – translates Jesus answered the sons. How?

b) In Greek, the plural form of the pronoun "you" indicates He is speaking to the sons.

2) Jesus made it clear – "Ye know not what ye ask."

3) "Are ye able."

a) Meaning – are you willing, are you prepared?

4) "to drink of the cup that I shall drink of" –

a) "cup" – Jesus is speaking of the bitter suffering He must experience.

b) Jesus prayed in the garden – Matthew 26:39 – "let this cup pass from me."

5)“and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with” –

a)Jesus used the word “baptism” here to describe that He will be fully immersed in suffering.

d.Jesus tells them what is ahead of them. Verse 23

1)Verse 23 –

a)The reality is that those who follow Christ will face tribulation.

b)For James and John, Jesus was right.

e.The life of James:

1)James was one of the original 12 disciples of Jesus along with his brother John.

2)They were known as the “sons of Zebedee” also called the “sons of thunder.”

3)He was a fisherman in partnership with Peter and his brother.

4)He was at the transfiguration, the raising of Jairus’ daughter and in the garden of Gethsemane.

5)James is the first martyr among the apostles.

6)What was going on that James stood out and was therefore arrested?

a)II Timothy 3:12 - “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

f.Application:

1)What is our hope in the face of persecution?

a)We have a sure hope which is Jesus Christ.

g.What about John; what happened to him?

1)John was also a fisherman, was influenced by John the Baptist ministry and was possibly there to hear, “Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.”

2)When Jesus spoke to him and asked him to follow Him, John did.

3)He was the disciple whom Jesus loved. John 13:23.

4)He was with Peter and followed Christ from a distance after the betrayal.

a)John follows Jesus that night from the council chamber to the praetorium and on to the crucifixion.

5)When Mary told them that Jesus was missing, he and Peter ran to the tomb.

6)After the resurrection you find Peter and John often together.

7)He also remained in Jerusalem as the leader of the church there.

8)He played an important role in the church.

a)Gal. 2:9 – “And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.”

9)John authored – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John and Revelation.

10)Was John boiled in oil?

3.Tonight’s Take Away:

a.The importance of listening.

b.They really believed that what they believed was really real.