



Can We Drink From Jesus' Cup?

*"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." Psalm 23:5 (NIV)*

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We all have cups in our homes. We can fill them with whatever we want: water, tea, coffee, juice, soda, milk, yogurt, soup, ice cream, hot chocolate, etc., etc. We all have different tastes, and our choices may depend on our finances. However, we all have one thing in common. We always like what tastes good. At some point in the life of every true believer, Jesus Christ will ask us to drink from His cup.

Matthew 20:20-23 (NIV) reads, *"Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. '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.' '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. 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.'"*

The two disciples this scripture speaks of are James and John. Their mother was one of the women who followed Jesus and ministered to Him. Thinking Jesus would grant her request, they had her speak to Jesus. Nothing is hidden from Christ. He knew the motive of their hearts. He knew that James and John were using their mother to further their ambition. He saw their pride. Instead of answering her, He spoke directly to them. First He told them that they had no idea what they were asking. They

thought that to rule and reign with Jesus would be all power, peace, and joy; no more Roman rule, sorrow, or suffering.

Then Jesus asked them a very pointed question: *"Can you drink the cup I'm going to drink?"* In their ignorance, they foolishly answered, *"We can."* Beloved, we can all be like James and John, wanting to sit with Jesus, enjoying the provision and the power and full of ambition, wanting leadership, wanting all the blessings of the kingdom. However, in this lifetime on earth, Jesus has not called us to sit with Him. He has called us to work and fight like soldiers in the power of the Holy Spirit to save souls, mature the believers and defeat the powers of darkness.

In verse 23, Jesus tells them, *"...You will indeed drink from my cup..."* Jesus knew He was going to drink the cup of suffering, that His cup would overflow on the cross as He gave His life for you and me. He also knew that all true believers would have to drink a cup of suffering in their lifetimes. Beloved, your cup may seem hard to drink, full of pain and sorrow. I have had a few of those. God's amazing grace will help us drink it. Remember, Jesus drank a greater cup of suffering than we ever will.

— *Janice McBride*

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