



## Communion Service

### The Cup of the Messiah?

To share the mission is to share its cost! James and John wanted to share the mission but were they ready to pay the cost? Are you ready?

**Background:** *v. 20* Salome was the mother of James and John (Boanerges—the sons of thunder—Mark 3:17), the wife of Zebedee and probably the sister of Mary the mother of Jesus. The parallel passage in Mark 15 does not mention her.

James and John wanted to call down fire from heaven to destroy a Samaritan village that had turned away from Jesus. *Luke 9:34*.

**There are three aspects to ‘drinking His cup’ ...**

#### A. **Expectation: Seeking the Kingdom** *vv. 21*

**“The flesh ever seeks to be glorified before it is crucified; exalted before it is abased.”** *Martin Luther*

1. **The nature of the kingdom:** The request came from an incorrect view of the nature of ‘My Kingdom.’ His throne was not to be on this earth. *This is a ‘spiritual’ kingdom! See II Cor 10:3-5*
2. **The cup of the kingdom:** *v. 22-23a* Jesus refers to this ‘cup’ while in the Garden of Gethsemane *Matt. 26:39*.
3. **The cup and the atonement:** *I Cor 11:25* Our expectation must be in the finished work of the cross. When I hold the communion cup and bread—I am ‘by faith’ trusting His work to ‘empower’ my work through His Spirit in His Kingdom here and in the future.

**What’s your expectation...of the cup...of the cross?**

#### B. **Persistence: Working in the Kingdom**

*vv. 23b, Matt 26:39; I Cor 11:25 (As often as you drink...)*

1. **The Father is preparing:** *v. 23b* This interesting phrase simply means that Jesus is the King of the Kingdom and the Father is the creator of the Kingdom. We are laborers (branches) in the vineyard (the Kingdom). See John 15

**Do you trust the power of the cross daily?**

#### C. **Humility: The Character of the Kingdom** *vv. 24-28*

1. **Success in the world:** *v. 25* ‘Dominion over’ is the normal practice for success in the world. Climb UP the ladder.
2. **Success in the Kingdom of God:** *vv. 26-27* The way of the Kingdom is going ‘DOWN’ the ladder. Serving all!

**Are you willing to be willing?  
Are you able to drink the cup?**

#### **Matthew 20:20-28 (KJV)**

**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.

**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.

**23** And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

**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:

**28** Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

**Matt 26:39** “And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

**I Cor 10:21** “Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils.”

**I Cor 11:25** “After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”

