

**THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

“Teacher, grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left.” Jesus responded: “You don’t know what you are asking.””

Mark 10:35

James and John were brothers. They owned a little fishing business on the Sea of Galilee. They were partners with Simon Peter and his brother Andrew who were also fishermen. They were all first cousins. Its about family. So in the quote at the head of the page it is a question asked by James and John, of Jesus. He has been trying to tell all of his apostles what is about to happen to him. He is going to be attacked, manhandled, turned over to the religious authorities. They will judge him, condemn him and arrange to have him killed. On the third day he will rise. Jesus knows this and he knows that he is about to usher in the kingdom of God, one of the very reasons he came to earth to begin with.

But his apostles enamored of his power—to heal, to raise from the dead, to calm the storms of nature, to feed the multitude with just some bread and fish. They have seen all of that. They have seen him walk on the water. They have seen the lepers cured. He has done all things well. And he and they are on their way to Jerusalem. They believe that he is the Messiah. They believe that he is finally going to go public. They believe that they are so lucky that they believe in him and he is the Messiah. They would like to cash in on his fame and their good fortune. They want to sit on two thrones one on either side of him. Places of honor. Because they have thrown in their lot with him and been his witnesses.

Jesus asks them if they “can drink the cup that he will drink? And they assure him that they can. Whatever it takes Lord. We are all in for you. They have really no idea what all this means but they are two young guys who feel like they have found the pearl of great price that Jesus talks about and they are ready to go all in to get it. So here’s my question. When you hear this story do you kind of sit back and pass a judgment on James and John because they are so opportunistic and self-serving? That is so easy to do. Their flaws are right out there to be seen. But do you see their readiness to do whatever it takes to be with Him? Are you that willing? And that is the question of the week.