



*Notes for Adult discussion groups at
On-Line@9 Worship Service
on 22 October 2006*

The Request of James & John

Mark 10 : 35 - 45

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "there is something we want you to do for us."

"What is it?" Jesus asked them.

They answered, "When you sit on your throne in your glorious Kingdom, we want you to let us sit with you, one at your right and one at your left."

Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking for. Can you drink the cup of suffering that I must drink? Can you be baptized in the way I must be baptized?"

"We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup I must drink and be baptized in the way I must be baptized. But I do not have the right to choose who will sit at my right and my left. It is God who will give these places to those for whom he has prepared them."

When the other ten disciples heard about it, they became angry with James and John. So Jesus called them all together to him and said, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the heathen have power over them, and the leaders have complete authority. This, however, is not the way it is among you. If one of you wants to be great, he must be the servant of the rest; and if one of you wants to be first, he must be the slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; he came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people."

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Discussion

1. Are you sitting comfortably? Are you prepared to lay down your life for others? What might this mean? How do you respond to this teaching of Jesus?
2. In my discipleship of Christ am I 'giving service' but not 'giving myself'? Is it love or duty?

How effectively are we demonstrating this most important statement of Jesus 'whoever wants to be first must be slave of all'?

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