

YE KNOW NOT WHAT YE ASK

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TEXT:

“Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. 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. 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. 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” (Matthew 20:20-23).

Introduction:

1) The mother of Zebedee's children (James & John) came before Jesus with a request: “Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him” (Matthew 20:20).

2) The request: “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” (Matthew 20:21).

3) Jesus' reply: “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” (Matthew 20:22).

4) God will take care of the things that belong to Him: “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” (Matthew 20:23) (we just do our part).

5) Prayer is a wonderful thing, but must be in accordance with the will of God.

(1) “And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” (Luke 18:1).

(2) “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8).

(3) “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:” (1John 5:14).

I. SOME ASK FOR THE KINGDOM TO COME WHEN IT HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED.

1) Was future during Christ's personal ministry. “ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:9-10).

2) But it was at hand.

(1) "And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power" (Mark 9:1).

(2) "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;" (Acts 2:16).

(3) "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" (Colossians 1:13).

(4) "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

3) They had a misunderstanding of the nature of the kingdom. "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence" (John 18:36).

II. SOME ASK FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN IT WAS A PROMISE & HAS ALREADY BEEN FULFILLED.

1) "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:" (Matthew 3:11).

2) "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

3) "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence" (Acts 1:4-5) ("ye" apostles).

4) "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4).

5) Baptism = overwhelming of power of the Holy Spirit.

6) Also to Cornelius to show that Gentiles were recipients of the Gospel. "And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?" (Acts 11:15-17).

III. SOME ASK FOR THE BAPTISM OF FIRE.

1) Some think it is zeal produced by out pouring of the Holy Spirit.

(1) "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them" (Acts 2:3).

(2) Not a baptism.

(3) "like **as** of fire" - was not fire.

2) Note the promise.

(1) "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Matthew 3:11-12).

(2) Two baptisms.

3) Matthew 3:12 explains the fire.

(1) "Unquenchable fire"

(2) "And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea. And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:42-44).

4) Holy Spirit baptism fulfilled - fire yet future. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," (Ephesians 4:5).

IV. SOME ASK TO BE SAVED APART FROM OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL.

1) God desires salvation for all.

(1) "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4).

(2) "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." (Proverbs 28:9).

3) Must receive and obey the gospel.

(1) "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

(2) "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

V. SOME ASK GOD TO BLESS MAN IN THE FAITH AND CHURCH OF MAN'S CHOICE.

1) They don't know what they ask.

2) Would God bless Noah in the ark of his choice? Jews in the tabernacle or temple of their choice? (Pattern - Ark Gen.6; Tabernacle Heb.8:5)

3) Christ built His church.

(1) "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

(2) "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism," (Ephesians 4:4-5).

5) This the one authorized in the word of God.

Conclusion:

- 1) Prayer is good, but is not a substitute for doing the will of God.
- 2) God desires to bless us, but let us be aware of what we ask for.
- 3) Have you done the will of the Father?

(1) "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

(2) "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).