

"The Redemptive Power of Self-Giving"

Mark 10:35–45

13 October 2019

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you could realistically ask for anything at this point in your life, what would you ask for?
2. How do you think that you would have responded to James and John after you heard their request to Jesus?

WORLDVIEW

3. Should Christians be intentional about limiting their ambition and avoiding rank, fame, and celebrity? What about pursuing public office?

INTO THE BIBLE

4. The metaphor of "the cup" is used in Scripture to represent different aspects of God's interaction with people. There is the cup of blessing referred to often in the Old Testament and there is the cup referred to by Jesus in our passage this week. What do the following passages teach about this cup?

Isaiah 51:17–23—Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering. There is none to guide her among all the sons she has borne; there is none to take her by the hand among all the sons she has brought up. These two things have happened to you—who will console you?—devastation and destruction, famine and sword; who will comfort you? Your sons have fainted; they lie at the head of every street like an antelope in a net; they are full of the wrath of the LORD, the rebuke of your God. Therefore hear this, you who are afflicted, who are drunk, but not with wine: Thus says your Lord, the LORD, your God who pleads the cause of his people: "Behold, I have taken from your hand the cup of staggering; the bowl of my wrath you shall drink no more; and I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, who have said to you, 'Bow down, that we may pass over'; and you have made your back like the ground and like the street for them to pass over."

Jeremiah 15:15–17—O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of revellers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation.

Matthew 26:38–42—Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

Revelation 14:9–11—And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.”

What is the link between this cup and the cup we share at the Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23–26)?

DIGGING DEEPER

5. In what ways do we so often miss the point of gathering to worship? What’s the common problem? What’s the solution?

6. Do you know of, or have experience of any examples that confirm the statement that “service and giving are not only ethics of the kingdom but the means of redemption”?

7. What does the cross, and your daily bearing of yours, have to do with greatness?

As you do your regular grocery shopping, please remember to add something to your trolley to donate to the Food for the Family ministry. Regularly used items include: rice (1kg or 2kg); juice; washing powder (auto or hand wash); cooking oil (750ml or 2-litre); peanut butter; syrup; jam; tea; coffee; sandwich spread; pilchards; tuna; cake flour; baked beans; butter beans; mixed vegetables; tomato and onion mix; other canned foods; Cremora or long-life milk; pasta; noodles; condiments (tomato sauce, mustard), etc.; sugar (1kg or 2.5kg); mielie meal; bath soap; deodorant (roll-on); toothpaste. Speak to Patson Ngidi for more information.