

A Seat By His Throne

Sunday Morning, May 8, 2016

Congregation please rise for the reading of God's Word:

(Matthew 20: 20 - 28)

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

21 And He said to her, "What do you wish?"

She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

22 But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

They said to Him, "We are able."

23 So He said to them, "You will indeed drink 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 is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father."

24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

How do you view the actions of the mother of the sons of Zebedee? Negatively? Admirably? Most scorn her for her presumptuous question put to the Lord. Today's let's view her requests as being admirable.

A good mother wants the best for her children. This mother asked Jesus to let her children be a part of His Kingdom.

. This mother wants the security of knowing that her sons are safe in His Kingdom, in essence she wanted her sons to be saved!

Every Christian mother desires her children's salvation.

. This was a commendable and admirable request made before Jesus.

How many of you moms out there have asked or continue to ask the same thing for your children? That they too might be saved?

To sit on either side of the throne of God during His Kingdom rule on Earth, her sons would have to have:

A life committed to serving God.

This mother was not only interested in her sons salvation, but that her sons actively served God.

A life surrendered to God is required to have such authority and power when reigning in God's Kingdom from either side of Christ throne.

. A life willing to suffer greatly for the Kingdom of God.

A life of total sacrificial living giving completely of oneself, not willing to claim anything as their own. All they have, and all that they are is surrendered to God.

. This truly is an admirable request of the mother of these two sons.

. Finally, what godly mother would not want the best for her children? She had big expectations for her sons, not for her own ego, but wanting the best and greatest opportunities life could offer her children.

The best opportunities in this life are found in Christ.

He is the giver of life, for He Himself is Life, the true, eternal giver of life! (John 14:6)

So the mother of these two disciples did not want her sons to live mediocre lives! She wanted her sons to be great Christian men and leaders in Christ's Kingdom work! Truly her requests were admirable and not presumptuous

What are your prayers and desires for your children?

Are they simply a life of success and good health in this world? Or Are they a life of success in God's eyes that reaches into eternity?

A mother's prayer is most powerful and effective when you walk a genuine life of righteousness in Christ! For:

(James 5:16c)

effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

A Mother Never Gives Up on Praying

Away at college, Gus had discovered a new sort of life, free of small-town morality. He had taken a new look at the Bible, enlightened by his studies, and now believed the Scriptures to be shallow and self-contradictory, he said. His mother, Monica had been horrified. She intensified her prayer campaign on behalf of Gus. Her attempts to talk with her son during his short visits home were failures. Every night, she prayed for his soul. When Gus' father—who had finally become a Christian—died suddenly, Monica sacrificed and worked to keep Gus in the university. During that difficult period, Monica fervently prayed for the Lord to guide her son back to the fold. Instead, Gus moved in with his girlfriend. Monica begged him not to live in sin, but he went his own way. By the time Gus achieved his goal of becoming a professor, he was the father of a son, refusing to marry and still looking down at the Christian religion.

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Suddenly, with vivid clarity, Gus knew he was being told to pick up and read the Bible that was lying across the yard. He ran to the book, picked it up and read these words from St. Paul: "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh" (Rom. 13:13-14). Like a brilliant light cutting through the darkness of his spirit, Gus was shown the truth in that moment. He was changed. He was converted. Exuberant, he ran to a friend who was sitting nearby and told him what had just happened. His friend took the Bible and read the next line aloud, "Accept him whose faith is weak ..." The friend applied that verse to himself and he too was converted! Gus' mother was overwhelmed with sheer joy at what the Lord had done.