

A MOTHER COMES TO JESUS

Introduction

- 1) **Matthew 20:20-22** – The mother of Zebedee’s children comes to Jesus with her two sons
 - a) Her sons are James and John (see Mark 10:35-41)
- 2) This is the woman identified as **Salome** who later is present at the crucifixion of Jesus
 - a) Compare Mark 15:40 and Matthew 27:56
 - i) Wife of Zebedee, the fisherman (Matt. 4:21-22)
 - b) John’s list of women may suggest that “Mary’s sister” is Salome, which would make her Jesus’ aunt, and James and John his cousins (Jn. 19:25-27)
- 3) Let us take a closer look at this mother who comes to Jesus

I) **HER APPROACH AND ATTITUDE**

- A) “Came to Him...kneeling down” (v. 20)
 - 1) Translated “worshipping Him” in KJV, ASV; “bowing down” NAS
 - a) Translated from Greek word (*proskuneo*) that means to do obeisance, worship
 - 2) She had a worshipful and reverent attitude in her approach to Jesus
 - a) Not act arrogant, selfish, or entitled – we are God’s humble servants
- B) Our approach to God should be characterized with humility and worshipful reverence
 - 1) Jesus said to pray, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name” (Matt. 6:9)
 - a) “Hallow” – sanctify, treat as holy
 - b) We are to hallow/sanctify the Lord God in our hearts (1 Pet. 3:15)
 - 2) The opposite of using the name of God with disrespect, or in a vain and profane way

II) **HER REQUEST AND APPEAL**

- A) She was spiritually concerned for her sons and had godly ambitions for them (v. 21)
 - 1) Reflects on her and her husband’s relationship with their children
 - 2) James and John comfortable with their mother’s concern and help – not overbearing
 - 3) Wanted sons to have most prominent and useful positions in the Messiah’s kingdom
 - a) Sit on right and left hand – perhaps a response to Jesus’ words in 19:28
- B) Too many parents today have worldly, not spiritual, ambitions for their children
 - 1) Want children to be popular, educated, rich, beautiful, etc., but Bible knowledge, godly morals, and spiritual faithfulness are of little concern
 - 2) Will make sure children excel in sports, clubs, arts, but care little about church
 - 3) Wonder why children get mixed up in drugs, alcohol, pregnancies, etc.

III) **JESUS’ ANSWER TO HER SONS**

- A) Jesus did not rebuke James and John, or their mother (v. 22)
 - 1) Asked if they were able to drink His “cup” and be baptized with His “baptism” – suffering!
 - a) James and John declared that they were able, and Jesus said that they would!
 - i) James martyred (Acts 12:2); John suffered and exiled (Rev. 1:9)
 - 2) The right to sit at His right and left hand is His Father’s decision
 - a) Greatness and prominence in the spiritual kingdom of God is not determined by appointed position, but by humble spiritual service (vv. 26-27)
 - i) Temptation must be endured, and faith tested (Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:6-7)

Conclusion

This humble **mother** of James and John wanted her sons to be important and useful in the kingdom of Christ – a noble desire, but it would not be granted when or how she thought. Their humble and sacrificial service would make them great in the kingdom of God. It will do the same today. Are you willing to serve faithfully that God may reward you? Obey God today!!