

With Jesus in His Glory

Mark 10:35—45

Intro

Everyone loves a winner. I like to watch college football and softball, especially Big Ten games. To me, “March Madness” merely signifies the end of a boring winter and the beginning of softball season. I don’t get to watch many games live, so, I record them to see them when I can. I must admit, if time is pressing, I look to see if my team won before watching. What’s the sense in watching three hours of struggle if you know the outcome is disappointing? James and John knew the outcome. They knew Jesus is the Messiah and would eventually win. They wanted to share in the glory of the winner.

They Didn’t Know What They Were Asking

Jesus said, “*You do not know what you are asking*” (**Mark 10:38**). They didn’t understand on two counts. First, they were thinking in earthly terms, about an earthly kingdom. Jesus would tell them that leadership in the kingdom of God was different: “*Whoever would be first among you must be your servant*” (**v. 44**). Second, the time was wrong. This was not the time for glory and honor. *This was the time for struggles, contests, toils, sweat, wrestling rings, and battles* (Chrysostom, **On the Incomprehensible Nature of God**).

We Will Share in His Glory

Paul says in **2 Timothy 2: If we endure, we will also reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12a)**. (Read **Revelation 19:6—9**). As the church, the bride of Christ, we are guaranteed a seat at the banquet table. There is no doubt about it, we *will* share in His glory for eternity. But now is not the time. Remember what Paul said, “*if we endure ...*” what must we endure?

We Share in His Baptism

Isn’t this life all about grace? Yes, but living in grace doesn’t mean we get a free pass to skip the struggles of this life to go directly to heaven. It’s not like Monopoly, where you get a card that says, “Advance to Go and collect \$200.” Jesus says we will share in His Baptism and cup. Paul says we *were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death (Romans 6:4)*. The baptism Jesus refers to is His death. We have died with Christ through our baptism, died to sin and the allure of the world.

We Share in His Cup

The cup is the cup of suffering: “*My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me*” (**Matthew 26:39**). We will suffer with and for Christ here on this earth. But we don’t want to see the cross and suffering as just things we must go through on the way to

glory. The ancient martyrs rejoiced in their suffering and death, not because they led to glory, but because they showed that they were worthy to suffer with Christ.

The Cross Is His Glory

For Christ, the cross wasn't just something to endure. It was His glory (read **John 12:27—33**). This was where Jesus won the victory over sin, death, and the devil. Who were the ones destined to sit on His right and left?

Recognizing His Glory

If we consider the cross as His glory, the ones for whom those places were prepared were the two thieves. One didn't recognize His glory and told Him to come down from the cross and bring them, too. He missed out on Christ's glory. The other thief recognized His glory and begged for mercy. He was granted forgiveness and eternal life that day. He shares in Christ's glory. We love a winner, but do we recognize Jesus' glory when we see it?

His Glory in the Supper

The glory of Christ comes to us in the Supper, through His crucified and resurrected body and blood. As we receive the body and blood, let us recognize His glory, and we will share **WITH CHRIST IN HIS GLORY**, the glory of the cross and the glory of eternity.

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
