

A Mother's Request

Matthew 20:17-34

by Don Falkos

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Jesus spoke privately to the twelve apostles, "We're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed, sentenced to death, and handed over to the Romans. They will mock him, flog him, and crucify him. But on the third day he will be raised to life."

The mother of James and John knelt in front of Jesus.

Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

She replied, "In your Kingdom, let my two sons sit next to you, one on your right and the other on your left."

Jesus said to James and John, "You don't know what you're asking. You will drink the same cup I am about to drink. But I can't promise you a place of honor at my right or my left. Those places have been prepared for the ones my Father has chosen."

The other apostles were outraged at the two brothers. But Jesus said, "So-called rulers in this world arrogantly dominate their people. But it's different for you. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be a servant to everyone else. Even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus and his disciples passed through Jericho on their way to Jerusalem. As they left the city a large crowd followed them. Two blind men started shouting from the side of the road, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

The crowd tried to hush them up, but they just shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

Jesus asked them, "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Lord, we want to see!" Jesus was deeply moved. He touched their eyes. Instantly they could see, and they followed him.