



Great = Servant

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Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

For this lesson the total combined or “interwoven” Gospels will again be used.

All Scripture is from Matthew 20 & Mark 10

✝ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee, James and John, came to Him with her sons, bowing down to Him and asking a certain thing of Him, saying to Him, "Teacher, we desire that Thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall ask of Thee."

Salome was the name of Zebedee's wife who was Jesus's mother Mary's sister making her sons Christ our Lords cousins who were also two of His Apostles James & John. (Rev)

Again, scripture recalls that Jesus had called these cousins by the name of “sons of thunder.” (Mark 3:17)

Most assume this was because these two were often loud or were they dynamic teacher/preachers?

However, there is possibly another explanation.

Jesus knowing them as family- did He call James and John “sons of thunder” because one of their parents was loud? Only Jesus and Salome's sons James and John can answer that question.

Continuing

✝ Then He (Jesus) said to her, "What dost thou wish? What would ye that I should do for you?" She saith to Him, "Command that these my two sons may sit, one on Thy right hand and one on Thy left, in Thy kingdom." And her sons said to Him, "Grant to us that we may sit, one on Thy right hand and one on Thy left, in Thy glory."

Now we begin to see Salome's motherly instincts for her sons that in her estimation have been properly following Jesus while sacrificing their goals, dreams, and life's ambitions for Him THE Messiah/Christ.

Get that?

Salome was seeking by her family ties prestige for her sons because she has noticed that as for now none of Mary's other son's nor daughters Jesus's half brothers and sisters have as of yet stepped up and supported Him within His Ministry. (They will post Christ's Resurrection)

In fact; up until this point the only interaction Jesus has had with His siblings was some months prior after having been instructed by the Scribes and Pharisee's Jesus's family then traveled to Capernaum to physically confine Him within their family home in Nazareth as insane. (Mark3)

More information on this topic can also be found in the Jesus Time lesson “We are the family of Christ.”

So, was Salome emboldened by the news that Jesus had selected her sons with Peter as His designated inner circle and they had witnessed our Lord's Divine Transformation? (Did they think GOD'S Kingdom was nigh)

This is the official scholarly interpretation and explanation as for Jesus's aunt Salome's sudden request.

That she had heard from her sons Jesus had literally Transformed into Holy Light before their eyes and now she was making moves that would position her side of Jesus's family prominently.

Aunt Salome was asking Jesus for great favor as for her sons His cousins but not based upon merit nor distinction but on favoritism and heredity.

This was exactly What? The Pharisees were known for in a word corruption.

Notice James and John immediately echoed their mother's words once she had made her request. This obviously meaning they knew what she was about to do. (Petition the Lord for unearned favor) Again, Israel in Jesus Time was a male dominated culture but in fact behind closed doors it was indeed the matriarch line that ruled the house. Salome, as blood kindred was advancing on a perceived opportunity that her sister Mary's other children had abandoned the position of trusted familial even as Jesus has proven true as THE Messiah.

Continuing

✝ But Jesus answered and said to them, "Ye know not what ye are asking. Are ye able to drink the cup that I am about to drink? Or to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

Here we have the multi layered initial answer by Jesus that contains each a family reference while questioning them directly as to their commitment & qualifications for this request.

Jesus is speaking respectfully first as family to Salome, James, & John obviously He is grateful for their service unto Him & remember, yes- James, John, and Jesus alike were all 3 previously Baptized by John the Baptist another relative.

Elizabeth the Baptizers mother was also related to sisters Salome and Jesus's mother Mary. (Dr. Luke 1) (In Greek their connection is called kinswoman which normally denotes a cousin)

James and John were previously Disciples of the Baptizer John who did not hold back and was telling everyone that Jesus was THE Christ. The sacrificial for Sin lamb of GOD. (John 1)

Get that?

Jesus is reminding them that they all 3 have Baptism through John in common however Jesus knowing the future is implying that there is a bitter drink to His Soul yet coming and another trying dreadful Baptism and if they do wish to continue with Him, they too will also taste of His cup and unpleasant Baptism as well.

Continuing

✝ And they said to Him, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "Ye shall indeed drink My cup that I drink, and ye shall be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit at My right hand, or at My left, is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it hath been prepared by My Father."

James & John for their Faith will drink from the same cup of Divine destiny of each communion with Christ and His death. Obviously, the Lord's communion cup will be at Passover prior to His crucifixion.

Christ our Lord will be Crucified where-as James (cousin) will taste the blade. (1<sup>st</sup> Apostle martyr)

Which means in Jesus Time that James was beheaded like their cousin John the Baptist. (Acts 12)

Jesus's other cousin the brother of James- John the Revelator is the one whom will yet again be Baptized.

The Roman Emperor Domitian will bring an elderly John- the last of the 12 Apostles to Rome, then attempt to publicly execute him at the Latin Gate before the road that led to Naples as John was boiled alive in oil.

Problem was for Rome; legend & Tertullian the Christian apologist forever know as the father of Latin Theology each do record that John laughed and mocked the Romans while praising Jesus because the boiling oil had zero effect on him and thousands present then dedicated their lives to Christ Jesus.

So, John was banished to the isle of Patmos where he could be of no further influence upon anyone. However, it was on Patmos that Jesus first appeared to John & then Raptured him to Heaven to receive the book of Revelation. Domitian was murdered and John was then set free and returned to Ephesus where his Gospel and the book of Revelation were preserved and presented to the world.

Jesus also informed James and John as for the positions they were requesting of Him; to sit on His right and left side at His Throne in Heaven these were NOT His positions of prestige to give. That Almighty Heavenly Father alone awarded those positions implying that those seats of honor were assigned by GOD using His standards and Will implying they like Jesus must accept and obey.

#### Conclusion

✝ Now the ten, hearing this, began to be indignant at the two brothers, James and John; but Jesus, calling them to Him, said to them, "Ye know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whosoever would become great among you, shall be your minister; and whosoever would be first among you, shall be servant of all: for even the Son of man came not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Note- Jesus speaks directly against any religious hierarchy Lording authority over His believers)

So, what happens next.

As expected, the other 10 Apostles hearing Salome's request and then James and John repeating it were furious. Furious is the best word in English translated from the Greek word Indignant.

Apparently, Salome was attempting to make Jesus publicly elevate James and John above all of the other Apostles & Disciples.

Also, within the context of Jesus's words of whomever wishes to be 'Great' as in the Chief or top Paramount they MUST be willing to be the Minister of all with the title of Minister equaling Servant. Here is an Ole Jewish saying that speaks directly upon this thought:

" A servant often enjoys more opportunity before the King than a Prince does"

Meaning someone seemingly lowly but dutifully serving the Lord as He Wills can often have more joyful interaction with GOD than someone of higher position because of their time-consuming duties and official tasks.

Not that a higher Prince/Princess position are a burden or unfruitful but rather at times someone with a seemingly meager status can be of a more hands on where the rubber meets the road situation that often our Lord may have a special concern for. We all serve a purpose- His purpose. This is WHY? We Christians say everything and everyone do matter because it does before GOD.

Christ our Lord then informs all present Apostles & Disciples including believers & relatives alike that He- a very part of the Trinity, was born human to literally die for us. His life as Sinless Christ given to redeem us unto His Father GOD.

Jesus had dutifully humbled Himself into His own creation and will be required to shamefully suffer and lay down His life as a ransom as payment for our Sin- not His Sin, but ours before His Father Holy GOD because the wages of our Sin before Holy GOD is death. (Romans 6:23)

This lesson demonstrates that as Christians even Jesus's Apostolic inner circle including His very Earthly family were required by GOD to constantly examine their motivations in order to keep Sin from creeping in.

As in our service to Jesus should never be for our own gain but to ever Honor and Glorify GOD.