

Matthew 20:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him,
Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right
hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

Analysis

Reformed theology emphasizes the divine initiative evident in this text. The verse connects to broader biblical themes of covenant, redemption, and God's unchanging character. Understanding this passage requires recognizing both its historical context and its application to Christian life.

Historical Context

First-century Palestine was marked by religious fervor and political tension. The passage reflects interactions between Jesus and various groups: Pharisees, Sadducees, disciples, and crowds. Each audience received teaching tailored to their needs and spiritual condition.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ?
2. What false beliefs or practices does this text correct?

3. How should you share this truth with others?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	Εἶπὲ	αὐτῷ	Τί	θέλεις	λέγει	αὐτῷ	Εἶπὲ	ἵνα
G3588	And	Grant	unto her	What	wilt thou	She saith	unto her	Grant	that
	G1161	G2036	G846	G5101	G2309	G3004	G846	G2036	G2443
καθίσωσιν	οὗτοι	οἱ	δύο	υἱοί	μου	εἷς	ἐξ	δεξιῶν	
may sit	these	G3588	two	sons	my	the one	on	right hand	
G2523	G3778		G1417	G5207	G3450	G1520	G1537	G1188	
σου	καὶ	εἷς	ἐξ	ἐκωνύμων	ἐν	τῇ	βασιλείᾳ	σου	
thy	and	the one	on	the left	in	G3588	kingdom	thy	
G4675	G2532	G1520	G1537	G2176	G1722		G932	G4675	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 19:28 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Esther 5:3 (Kingdom): Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

Psalms 110:1 (Parallel theme): The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Matthew 18:1 (Kingdom): At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

Acts 1:6 (Kingdom): When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Mark 6:22 (Kingdom): And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.

Matthew 20:32 (Parallel theme): And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you?

1 Kings 3:5 (Parallel theme): In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

Colossians 3:1 (Parallel theme): If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Romans 12:10 (Parallel theme): Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

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