

Matthew 20:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

Analysis

Ye know not what ye ask (οὐκ οἶδατε τί αἰτεῖσθε)—Jesus's response exposes their fundamental ignorance; *ouk oidate* (you do not know) reveals spiritual blindness deeper than the physical blindness healed in verses 30-34. **Are ye able to drink of the cup** (δύνασθε πιεῖν τὸ ποτήριον)—The *potērion* (cup) metaphor saturates Old Testament judgment language (Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17, Jeremiah 25:15), signifying God's wrath that Jesus will absorb at Calvary.

To be baptized with the baptism (τὸ βάπτισμα βαπτισθῆναι)—The baptism imagery echoes being overwhelmed by suffering (Psalm 42:7, 69:2). Jesus uses covenant language: sharing His cup and baptism means participating in His suffering. **We are able** (Δυνάμεθα)—Their confident assertion reveals presumption, not comprehension. Peter will deny Him thrice within days.

Historical Context

The cup and baptism metaphors would resonate with Jewish disciples familiar with prophetic literature. The Passover cup represented covenant participation, but Jesus transforms it into the cup of divine judgment He will drain alone (Matthew 26:39). Church tradition records that James became the first apostolic martyr (Acts

12:2, AD 44) and John suffered exile to Patmos, fulfilling Jesus's prophecy that they would indeed share His sufferings.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. When have you confidently claimed ability to follow Christ while fundamentally misunderstanding what He was asking?
2. How does the cup metaphor challenge triumphalistic Christianity that promises glory without suffering?
3. What does Jesus's question about drinking His cup reveal about the nature of true discipleship?

Interlinear Text

ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν Οὐκ οἶδατε τί
answered **But** ^{G3588} **Jesus** **and said** **not** **Ye know** **what**
G611 G1161 G2424 G2036 G3756 G1492 G5101

αἰτεῖσθε Δυνάμεθα πίνειν τὸ ποτήριον ὃ ἐγὼ μέλλω
ye ask **Are ye able** **drink of** ^{G3588} **of the cup** **that** **I** **shall**
G154 G1410 G4095 G4221 G3739 G1473 G3195

πίνειν καὶ τὸ βάπτισμα ὃ ἐγὼ βαπτισθῆναι
drink of **and** ^{G3588} **with the baptism** **that** **I** **am baptized with**
G4095 G2532 G908 G3739 G1473 G907

βαπτισθῆναι λέγουσιν αὐτῷ Δυνάμεθα
am baptized with **They say** **unto him** **Are ye able**
G907 G3004 G846 G1410

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:42 (Parallel theme): He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

Luke 22:42 (Parallel theme): Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Mark 14:36 (Parallel theme): And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Matthew 26:39 (Parallel theme): And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

John 18:11 (References Jesus): Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

Isaiah 51:22 (Parallel theme): Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again:

Romans 8:26 (Parallel theme): Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Jeremiah 49:12 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the LORD; Behold, they whose judgment was not to drink of the cup have assuredly drunken; and art thou he that shall altogether go unpunished? thou shalt not go unpunished, but thou shalt surely drink of it.

Luke 12:50 (Baptism): But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

James 4:3 (Parallel theme): Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.