

Can you drink this cup?

After teaching the apostles a third time that his way was going to lead to his crucifixion, death and resurrection, and for a third time the apostles completely ignoring his teaching, not wanting to talk to him about it, Jesus changes tactics.

When James and John, two of Jesus' inner circle, get things completely wrong again, asking Jesus to do their will instead of seeking God's will, and seeking a place of prominence in Jesus' approaching glorious overthrow of the Romans, Jesus asks a question that refocuses the conversation.

"Can you drink the cup that I will drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

In short hand,

Can you drink this cup?

Just in case we think that we are any different than James and John, do our prayers sound any different than their request?

Jesus, we want you to do our will?

Jesus' response is a possible source of prayer and meditation for a lifetime.

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When confronted with Jesus' question our minds tend to jump to the possibility of martyrdom. For us living in Pullman, martyrdom is not likely. Many Christians around the world are faced with the possibility of martyrdom daily. Taking into account that how you count the number of martyrs each year depends on many factors, but a conservative number is around 1,200 each year. The Vatican puts the number at about 100,000 a year. Either way, martyrdom is a reality in the world today.

But, what does Jesus' question mean for us in Pullman? The answer is different for every one of us. In each of our lives Jesus is asking us to drink the cup that he drinks. Jesus goes on to give us a way to discern how this applies to our individual lives.

“Whoever wishes to be great among you, will be your servant.”

No matter what our state in life is we can use this key to help us follow Christ.

Can we drink this cup?

How can we serve others?

How can we serve in our families?

How can we serve in our jobs?

How can we serve during our leisure time?

How can we serve the communities we belong to?

church, city, country, team, friends, the poor?

Service will not lead to fame and fortune, but it is very satisfactory to the soul, for when we serve the soul discovers that we are cooperating with grace, God's will to save everyone.

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