

## Jesus Predicts His Death and James and John Make a Selfish Request:

### Mark 10:32-45

Jesus' final journey up to Jerusalem commences, and in Mark's account, the suffering He was to endure is described in more detail. James and John come up to Jesus with a very selfish request: "We want you to do for us whatever we ask" (v.35).

Instead of saying "**we** want," they should have been asking for what **God** wanted. (Maybe some of our prayers are a bit self-centred like that. We can want the easy way, and for all our problems to be solved immediately).

James and John then ask Jesus if they can sit at Jesus' right and left in glory (v.37). If ever there was totally inappropriate timing for a totally inappropriate request, this was it!

"Can you drink the cup I drink...?" Jesus asked them (v.38). The question was probably not meant to be answered. But James and John do answer: "We **can**!" (v.39). Jesus replies, "You **will** drink the cup I drink..." (v.39). James and John would indeed have to suffer like their Master. James would become one of the first Christian martyrs (Acts 12:2), and John would die in exile whilst on the Isle of Patmos.

Jesus says that those who want to become great must become servants (v.43). He did not come "to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (v.45).

Are our ambitions in line with Jesus' teaching? Are we using our gifts, our time, our energies, our careers in dentistry to serve the Lord and others in a spirit of humility? Am I?