

**RADIO MINISTRY**  
DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM  
92.1 FM OPM Radio Jinja-Uganda &  
<http://revival-time-ministry.info/messages/>

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
Time: 6:00 to 7:00 am Saturday

**A.TEXT: Mathew 20:20-24** *Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him.*

*And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left."*

*But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able."*

*He said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father."*

*And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers.*

**B. THEME:** The implication of some of our prayers

**INTRODUCTION:** At that time every one in Israel was expecting a ruler like King David who would deliver Israel from the foreign dominion. At that time Israel was no longer a sovereign nation, but under the Roman rule. The experts in the Law and interpretation of

prophecies knew that a messiah would come to establish a theocratic leadership; far superior to any other kingdom on earth.

However, the intervening church era before Jesus Christ sets His Government was still a mystery. Yes, Jesus will come to establish a millennium rule on earth, but the details were not yet revealed.

Just like any worldly system where the leader lords it over the subjects, it was so in the minds of Zebedee and his family. Leadership in the worldly system is a position of privileges, honor and benefits. This concept is diametrically opposite according to the heavenly Kingdom in which leadership is a position of service and suffering.

Each of the twelve disciples was concerned about their future in the immediate coming Kingdom. The wife of Zebedee and her two sons carried it a bit too far; they had a family discussion on this and resolved that the mother approaches Jesus. It was not a joking matter. In the book of Mark, the Bible says it were the boys who spoke implying what their mother did was a family resolution. It was something burning in James and in John, and probably the entire family.

In their own conception, they had been recruited and were being trained for the new and powerful Kingdom in which the sick were healed, food in abundance, demons quaking, and the dead raised to life. The family knew that their sons had fallen into things (Blessings). But there was this Peter, a fellow fisherman who seemed to be a threat. He was always first in everything. Peter was a threat; a man of action and gifted in warfare. He promised to give protection to the

Lord and delivered the promise: When the threat surfaced, in a matter of seconds the ear of enemy was slashed down.

How about Mathew the expert in taxation and foreign governance? We cannot forget Judas Iscariot, treasurer and a financial controller always carrying a bag of coins everywhere they went.

The threat was not small, and leadership was a hot issue. Twelve strong men, a majority of whom were of fishermen caliber, and without education, yet are possessed by the spirit of leadership, is not a matter to be taken lightly.

These hard-liners were hardened by the cold in the nights they spent beating the waters of the sea of Galilee for fish. The society in Israel never recognized fishermen and shepherds as important. They had been marginalized enough, and that was their chance to participate in the new government, and the governed which recognized the poor and the lowly educated.

The scramble for positions would have ruined the Lord's ministry prematurely, had Jesus Christ not been God. Yes, He had called them, but they came with a wrong motive, the way it happens today. The churches are filled people with twisted motives.

Although Jesus was God and knew everything, He was still shocked and amazed. He asked them a question with a lot of concern, "***Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?***"

**“Yes”**, they ignorantly and confidently insisted. Can you imagine? They were foolishly asking to be crucified with Christ one on one side, and the other on the other side!

Yes, it did happen to them: The prayer was answered exactly as the Lord said. They drank the cup in full: James was among the first victim of martyrdom. He came next after Stephen. He was harvested even before the church could take root. Though John lived longest, he was a victim of torture and banishment to isolated Patmos Island

**Acts 12:2 *Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword. When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. Now it was during <sup>4</sup>the days of Unleavened Bread.***

And Revelations 1:9 ***I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.***

In other words, God answered the prayers of these two boys but in a different and in God's own terms. He does that, and no one has a right to question Him.

#### **WHAT ARE SOME OF PRAYERS WITH FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS?**

Just like the family of Zebedee, we, many times, pray but may not understand the implications of our prayers. When the answer is delivered to us, we may not perceive it.

We utter excellent prayers that touch the heart of God and make him smile. Such prayers as, **“God, I would like to know you”**, or **“God, make me patient and loving”**, or **“God, use me as your vessel to bless others”** etc, are in the center of God’s will for His children. Such wonderful prayers does not escape God’s attention.

This reminds of a story from my counselee. I spent this year’s valentine holiday with university students discussing issues of relationships in a way that glorifies God. It was a privilege for me to prepare emerging professionals in marital issues which please God.

A girl then came with an experience; a medical student had a sad story to share with me. She was like a glass; broken, devastated and spiritually shuttered. She had a nasty encounter with this monster prey called boy-girl relationship. This monster has spiritually devoured many of our Christian youths.

She had grown up very well in a good Christian family. She had been watching her biological parents do quite well in their marriage; her parents always loved, cared for and respected each other as compared to the majority of families she heard stories about. The neighborhood families did not fare well; they stories associated with rivalry, completions, witchcraft etc.

She grew up a secure and confident child. She took what was happening in their parent’s lives for granted and never counted the cost till she jumped into the sea turbulent sea of relationships herself.

Her prayer was well structured, and that, **“God, give me a husband who knows and fears you, mature, and the one who will always**

**give me tender loving care, Amen!” God, I am sure also replied 'Amen' over at the other end.**

Such an excellent prayer cannot escape God’s attention, I said. The first question in Heaven is always that “***does the applicant possess the capacity to handle the blessing?*** In other words my daughter, a medical student had asked for an ideal marriage from God, but did not understand her own capacity, preparedness and the cost implication?

A boy (brother in Christ) did come her way making a proposal. She was swept off her feet and turned on all her love engines without fuses and brakes. She did not take the trouble to seek counsel and make wide consultations. She acted on an impulse and the assumption that God had answered her.

They went too far in a very short time, the thing neither of her parents did. And after the boy had sampled her, she was dumped; a very common phenomena among the youths of these days.

She was abandoned in a sea of guilt, enormous emotional pain and devastating feeling worthlessness. The boy moved on, not bothered, as though nothing had ever happened.

I thank God that by grace, I was to perform successful surgery on her. Her sunken self esteem was raised to normal the way medical personnel would save a dying patient of low blood or sugar. She was a medical doctor in the making and therefore understood the surgery and therapy of love, forgiveness and hope. It worked out, and she

has survived, and she is busy recommending other patients to my mobile clinic.

The girl above was broken in preparation for her blessing. God allowed the test and failure to come her way in order to expose to her how ill-prepared she was for the lofty blessing of an ideal marriage. God allows temptations and even failures to expose the weak points in our lives before a great blessing.

David's love for people in skirts was exposed when he uncontrollably lusted after Beersheba, some one else's wife. He could not resist a beautiful woman. He was exposed and thoroughly chastised. That is God's love.

Moses, another great man, but did not had not developed brakes in his emotions also exposed. Though a great leader, he was still reckless emotionally. Instead of talking to the Rock as he had been instructed, he hit the rock in rage. He missed to step in the land of the promise, his life dream and vision was not realized by him as a person.

Unless God breaks a person, the gold, fragrance and sweetness in the person won't come out for God and other people to enjoy. Mary, who anointed Jesus was broken in heart over her sins and expressed it by spending costly oil on Him. She broke the container and the fragrance filled the room Mark 14:3-5 and John 12:2-5 ***While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head. John 12:3 and the house was fill with the fragrance of the perfume.***

***But some were indignantly remarking to one another, "Why \* has this perfume been wasted?"***

There was a man, a visionary and workaholic in the Bible named Jacob, the son Isaac and Rebecca. He was strong, vision and fighter. He saw no need for the promises of God to be fulfilled through his elder brother, and not himself. With the strong support of his mother, he dislodged his brother and took the blessing. As a determined man, everything he wanted he got. Jacob's life was dominated by struggles: He struggled with brother and he won, with his own father and he won, with his father-in-law and he won and with his wives and he won.

Time came when he was stressed by fact that he was about to face his brother whose blessing and future he had stolen.. Esau, the father of the Edomites, had openly confessed of bumping off his brother Jacob, the blessing snatcher.

He was to cross river Jabbok to the territory controlled by his brother. Jacob appeared deeply stressed over this and decided to be alone for night probably to think and lay military strategies. God confronted the stubborn fugitive and the wrestling started. Finally God won, but after dislocating his hip joint and giving him a blessing. He changed his name from Jacob ( heal-catcher to a struggler) Genesis 32: 24-30. His vision was confirmed and a new identity given to him.

***Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.***

***When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him.***

***Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, will not let you go unless \* you bless me."***

***So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."***

***He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."***

***Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him [there](#).***

God will always prevail over us. If God has to remove, add something or improve something in one's life, He will do it. It doesn't matter what it takes, and how long it takes. The bigger the blessing we aim at, the better for God, and therefore bigger surgery He does.

Moses had a big vision, and the training was not less than forty years in the wilderness alone with sheep, heat and the frost. Joseph's heart cry was to be the most perfect of the sons of Jacob, and God took him through the colleges of deep pit, Potiphar's household service and finally the dreaded Egyptian Prison before he graduated and posted as the premier of Egypt responsible for food security rescuing the entire world of starvation.

David had a heart after God's own heart. But, see what happened, he survived being pinned on the wall by a king who had fallen out with God over his own disobedience and arrogance against God. David had to suffer first to extent of feigning insanity before he became King over Israel. He was also tested and failed a couple of times. He was humiliated by worthless people, his own children and his commanders. He went through that meekly and faithfully. He has left a powerful legacy on earth. He has gone through the History books on earth as a hero!

My dear listener, you may be on a crossroad of some sort, or passing through a kiln. Take heart, you are being molded to suit your heart's cry and answer to your prayer. God knows that you love him, and He loves you too. He is doing both minor and major surgeries in your life. Do not give up, nor despair. You are not alone going through the chisel of the Creator. No tear of yours has fallen on God's deaf year. Your tears are in a special bottle in heaven. Let Him have his way. You are God's Child, sated on His Lap, Amen!

Prayer Psalm 131 this Morning:

***O LORD, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; Nor do I involve myself in great matters, Or in things too difficult for me. Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; Like a weaned child rests against his mother, My soul is like a weaned child within me.***

***O Israel, hope in the LORD From this time forth and forever***

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***Pray request:*** Pray that I do not drop off the radio program as the other time due to lack of sponsorship. Pray that I raise partners to give regularly, (once a month), to sustain this program in the air every Saturday morning. It is a bit costly, nevertheless, I took a step of faith.

