



CALLED TO DRINK FROM THE LORD'S CUP

Matthew 20:19-20 NKJV- and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again." [20] Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

Introduction

The call of God upon a person's life is never merely an invitation to honor, visibility, or spiritual privilege; it is first a call to drink from the Lord's cup. In Matthew 20:19–20 (NKJV), Jesus reveals the suffering that awaits Him - mockery, scourging, crucifixion - yet immediately afterward, a request is made for position and greatness. This contrast exposes a timeless truth: many desire the crown, but few understand the cup that precedes it.

Throughout Scripture, God's calling is inseparable from a process of surrender, obedience, and suffering. The cup represents the pathway through which God forms character, tests faith, and prepares His servants for destiny. While the cup is often bitter, it is never meaningless. What God allows His servants to drink is always purposeful, temporary, and ultimately redemptive. The essential question remains: Are we willing to drink what God places in our hands in order to fulfill His purpose?

The Meaning of the Cup

Biblically, the cup symbolizes God's appointed portion - what He assigns to shape, refine, and prepare a person. To drink the Lord's cup is to embrace surrender, suffering, obedience, and destiny. Jesus Himself modeled this in the Garden of Gethsemane when He prayed, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39). Though the cup was heavy, obedience opened the door to resurrection glory.

Every calling carries a cost. God does not develop His servants in comfort alone. The cup presses the believer into deeper dependence on God, stripping away pride, self-reliance, and

impatience. As Scripture declares, “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word” (Psalm 119:67).

The cup is not meant to destroy but to develop. It builds endurance, humility, spiritual maturity, and dependence on God. Scripture affirms, “We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope” (Romans 5:3–4).

God never assigns a cup without supplying strength. As He repeatedly told Joshua, “Be strong and courageous” (Joshua 1:9). If God entrusts someone with the cup, it is because He trusts them with His purpose. The suffering is seasonal, but the glory is eternal (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Biblical Examples of Drinking the Cup

The Bible is filled with men and women who drank deeply from their assigned cup before walking in their destiny.

Abraham drank the cup of sacrifice and obedience. He left his homeland at God’s command (Genesis 12:1) and later faced the test of offering Isaac (Genesis 22:1–2). His faith was refined through waiting, obedience, and surrender, proving that divine promise often matures through painful obedience.

Moses drank the cup of rejection and leadership pressure. Rejected by Pharaoh and misunderstood by the Israelites, he endured frustration and spiritual warfare. Yet God used the cup to shape him into the meekest leader (Numbers 12:3), fit to lead a nation.

Joseph drank the cup of betrayal and injustice. Sold by his brothers, falsely accused, and imprisoned, Joseph’s suffering seemed senseless. However, God was preparing him for authority. Joseph later testified, “You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good” (Genesis 50:20). The pit and prison were necessary steps toward the palace.

David drank the cup of persecution. Though anointed king, he lived years in hiding, hunted by Saul. David refused to retaliate when given the opportunity, choosing forgiveness over revenge (1 Samuel 24:6). His cup taught him restraint, humility, and trust in God’s timing.

Elijah drank the cup of exhaustion and isolation. After great spiritual victory, he fled in fear and despair (1 Kings 19). Yet God met him in his weakness, proving that even servants who drink deeply may experience fatigue, and that divine restoration follows honest surrender.

Jeremiah drank the cup of rejection and sorrow. Called from the womb (Jeremiah 1:5), he was mocked, imprisoned, and rejected by his own people. Known as the “weeping prophet,” his life teaches that faithfulness does not always produce applause but remains precious before God.

Daniel and his companions drank the cup of standing firm in a hostile culture. Exiled and persecuted, they chose obedience over safety. God honored their faith by delivering them from the lion’s den and the fiery furnace (Daniel 3; 6).

The apostles drank the cup of persecution and martyrdom. Jesus warned them, “If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you” (John 15:20). Many died for their faith, while John was exiled to Patmos, proving that the cup may differ in form but not in purpose.

The Apostle Paul drank the cup of continual suffering—beatings, imprisonment, shipwrecks, and a thorn in the flesh. Yet he declared, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9). The cup did not silence his calling; it amplified God’s grace.

Conclusion

To be called by God is to be called to drink from the Lord’s cup. There is no destiny without development, and no crown without the cross. While the cup may contain sorrow, sacrifice, and suffering, it also carries divine purpose and eternal reward. What God allows today prepares us for what He has promised tomorrow.

The cup is temporary, but the glory that follows is everlasting. As Proverbs 19:21 reminds us, “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.” Those who faithfully drink the cup God assigns will one day testify that every tear, trial, and sacrifice was worth it - because God’s purpose never fails.