

“The Cup”



“Jesus drank a cup of wrath without mercy, that we might drink a cup of mercy without wrath.” - J. Oswald Sanders

“Are you able to drink the cup I am about to drink? My Father, if it’s possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will. Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given Me? Having been justified by the blood of Christ, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Christ, for we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, and we shall be saved by His life.”

Matthew 20:22; 26:39; John 18:11; Romans 5:8-11

Key Scripture References:

Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-41; John 13:31-38; Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Key Questions for Walking with Jesus

1. What does Jesus mean by “drinking the cup” in Mark 10:38?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus uses the present tense for the cup He was already drinking in Mark 10:38?
3. In John 13:31-38, how did Jesus use the word “*dynamai*” (“*are able*”) to show how limited the disciples were in the cup they would later drink compared to the cup He alone would drink?

4. Why was it so important for Jesus to drink the cup He was about to drink? Why does it matter if He did or did not drink all of it? What would've resulted if He refused to drink any of His cup, or only part of it, not all of it?
5. What does John 18:11 reveal about the cup Jesus was about to drink? Take note of how Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane changes before His arrest.
6. Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-28, about the "cup" the Apostle Paul had to "drink." If God loved Paul so much, and Paul was living obediently to God, why would God choose such a hard life for him?
7. Why is Isaiah 52:13-15, so important to understanding Isaiah 53?
8. What have you learned about the cup that every true disciple of Jesus must drink to some degree? How does this affect your understanding of being a disciple of Jesus?

Key Questions for a Deeper Walk with Jesus

1. Read each of the "Servant Songs" in Isaiah: 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12. What was predicted/required for God's Suffering Servant? Find the New Testament parallels where these Old Testament verses were fulfilled.
2. Read Acts 9-28. Identify all the elements that were part of the "cup" that the Apostle Paul had to "drink." How was Paul's cup similar to Jesus'? How was his cup different from Jesus' cup?
3. What have you learned in this study about your own personal commitment and level of discipleship with Jesus? What needs to improve?