

## **EDOMI Bible Study**

### **Responding Faithfully to the Election: A Reflect-Discuss-Act Series**

#### Round 1

Mark 10:35-45, New Revised Standard Version updated edition

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”

#### Discussion questions:

- What is this narrative about?
- Who are the characters and what are they doing?

Tip: Try not to analyze the text deeply. Focus on getting a sense for what the story is saying and not saying. We’ll dive deeper into the story in the next two rounds.

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Round 2

Mark 10:35-45, New International Version

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.” “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.” “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” “We can,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.” When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Discussion questions:

- What were James and John longing? What were they REALLY asking for?
- Is it wrong to ask for power? Is power morally neutral?
- What could “drinking the cup” mean? Is it only a reference to the Eucharist? Why is baptism mentioned?
- Are there other places in the Gospels where Jesus leads by serving? Name some.

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#### Round 3

War Club Tells the Good Story (Mark) 10:35-41, First Nations Version of the New Testament

After that, He Takes Over (James) and He Shows Goodwill (John), the sons of Gift of Creator (Zebedee), came up to Creator Sets Free (Jesus). “Wisdomkeeper,” they said, “We want to ask you to do something for us.” “What is it you want from me?” he replied. “When your shining-greatness is revealed,” they said back to him, “permit us a place of honor beside you, one on your right hand the other on your left.” “You do not understand what you are asking,” he answered. “Are you able to drink the cup of suffering that I will drink, or endure the purification ceremony that I will endure?” “We are able!” they answered. “Yes,” he said to them, “you will drink from my cup of suffering and endure my purification ceremony, but the place at my right and left hand is not mine to give. This honor belongs to the ones for whom it has already been prepared.” When the other ten message bearers heard this, they began to look down on He Takes Over (James) and He Shows Goodwill (John). So Creator Sets Free (Jesus) called them together and said, “Other nations have rulers, such as the People of Iron (Romans). They like to show their power over people and push them around. But this will not be the way of the ones, like you, who walk with me. The great ones among you will humble themselves and serve all the others. In the same way, the True Human Being did not come to be served by others but to offer his life in the place of many lives, to set them free.”

#### Discussion questions

- What does it look like to serve in a politically fraught climate? Does it mean we have to agree, that we give up our principles for the sake of agreement?
- What attributes do we seek in political and religious leaders? Are there different expectations for political versus religious leaders?
  - Should expectations of political and religious leaders be different?