

“WE ARE ABLE”

Mark 10: 35 – 39 (ASV)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The request of James and John – Mark 10: 35 – 37.
2. Christ’s question to them, *“Are ye able” . . . “to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism which I am baptized?”*
3. Their reply, *“We are able”* – v. 39.
 - a. They did not understand the import of their answer.
 - b. They had a poor understanding then; they were just beginning.
4. Neither did we understand fully what it would mean when we took up our cross to follow Jesus.
5. This promise was kept, though it cost them much:
 - a. James was beheaded – Acts 12:2.
 - b. John was banished to Patmos – Rev. 1:9.
 - c. They were made able to keep their promises by the help that comes from God.

I. BY GOD’S HELP WE ARE ABLE TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

- a. All men and women have temptations – I Cor. 10:13.
- b. Christ was tempted in all points just as we are – Heb. 4:15; I John 2:16; Matt. 4: 1- 10.
- c. We are not exempt from temptation by any circumstances, environment, or condition.
- d. But we will not be tempted above that we are able to bear – I Cor. 10:13.
 - i. There is always a way of escape – I Cor. 10:13.
 - ii. Lot – 2 Pet. 2: 7 – 9.
 - iii. We must be willing to escape – Joseph . . . Gen. 39: 7 – 12; I Cor. 6:18; I Cor. 10:14.
- e. God does not tempt us, we are drawn away by our own lusts – James 1: 13 – 15.
- f. Satan is the tempter – Matt. 4:3.
 - i. Satan tempts us through the weakness of the flesh – Matt. 26:41.
 1. Satan struck at the appetite of Jesus after a 40 day fast – Matt. 4:3.
 2. Satan seeks to bring unfaithfulness to the marriage bed if there is defraud – I Cor. 7:5.
- g. Weapons God has given in the hands of Christians to fight temptation:
 - i. *“It is written”*—Matt. 4: 4, 7, 10.
 - ii. Prayer – Matt. 6:13; Luke 22:40.
 - iii. Self-control – 2 Pet. 1:6.
 - iv. Flee from it – I Cor. 6:18.

II. WE ARE ABLE TO FULFILL OUR RESPONSIBILITIES WITH THE HELP OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

- a. The one talent man felt that he was unable to do the job given him, but he was mistaken and condemned for it – Matt. 25: 24 – 28.
- b. Caleb said, *“For we are well able to overcome it”* – Num. 13:30.
 - i. This was even when the spies thought it was impossible – Num. 13:31.
 - ii. Joshua felt like Caleb – Num. 14:8.

- c. Paul said, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"* – Phil. 4:13.
- d. The church in the first century was able to carry the gospel to the people of their generation – Col. 1:23.
 - i. When we give ourselves unreservedly, our lives, our money, our all, we can do the same.
- e. Some of the things we can do:
 - i. We can teach the gospel to others – Acts 8: 4; 11: 19 – 21.
 - ii. Restore and reclaim the wanderer – Gal. 6:1; James 5: 19 – 20.
 - iii. We can teach our families – Eph. 6:4; I Pet. 3:1 – 3; I Cor. 7:16.

III. WE ARE ABLE WITH GOD'S HELP TO GIVE FREELY TO HIS WORK

- a. God gives us the power to get wealth – Deut. 8: 17 – 18; Mal. 3:10.
- b. God is able to make all grace abound unto us – 2 Cor. 9:8.
- c. If we sow bountifully, we shall reap also bountifully – 2 Cor. 9:6.
 - i. God will multiply the seed sown – 2 Cor. 9:10.
- d. When people first give themselves to the Lord, they won't have any trouble giving their money – 2 Cor. 8:5.
- e. It would be well for many to contrast what they spend for entertainment, recreation, and little things not really needed, with what they give to the Lord.
- f. Our ability may far exceed what we think.

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