QUESTION 10

"Can you drink the cup I'm going to drink?"

Sit in a comfortable position. Inhale and exhale deeply several times. Try to let go of distractions, quiet your thoughts and open yourself up to God. Invite the Lord to meet you and speak to you during your time with him.

Read through Matthew 20:17–28 slowly. Imagine yourself in the scene as one of Jesus' disciples: hearing Jesus' words, watching his interaction with James and John and their mother, hearing their request and Jesus' reply. Sit with the scene in your imagination for a few minutes, then read the passage again.

James and John (through their mother) are asking Jesus for power, glory and self-advancement. Their request may seem petty and self-centered to us, but they reflect the selfish desires of our own hearts. Spend some time confessing to the Lord how your own selfish desires often get in the way of your love for God and others.

Jesus' response to their request is to teach them about his own self-substitutionary death. Jesus gives himself up for self-centered sinners, "drinking the cup" of God's wrath on our behalf that we might be free. Reflect on the amazing truth of God's sacrificial love. Perhaps imagine Jesus taking your own place on the cross, letting you walk away free. Spend time thanking and praising him for his gift of love.

Jesus' exhortation to his disciples and us, his followers, is to be a different kind of people who are like our King—one who has come not to be served but to serve. Invite God to challenge you about an area of your life where your own value system is shaped more by the world than by Jesus. Ask God to give you a new heart that desires to follow in the way of Jesus, the way of willing suffering and servanthood for the sake of others.