

How you ever told your spouse or as a child to a parent, “you know, I don’t think I’ve been wrong or made a mistake this week... And come to think of it I can only think of 1 or 2 times I was even really wrong this month.” “As your pastor sometimes I go weeks without making a real mistake”. We don’t say it, but we think it. We are all fools. Yes, we should be confident, use our ability to strive to be right; ambitious; even pride *can* be godly. Yet you are wrong far more than you think. You don’t see half of your mistakes. We all think we are far better than we really are. Fools. Repent. Don’t you dare think for a moment that you sin less than anyone in this place or out there. Even to that, to take your sins more seriously.

Paul writes, **Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be proud, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but do what is honorable in the sight of all.** We aren’t good at that. And especially when our Lord says, **whoever would be great among you must be a servant.**

How do people describe you. No-not how you think they should describe you- but how they would honestly describe you. You’ve much work to do. Honor. Love. Serving. And it all flows from repentance, in being humble before God and others. May God have mercy on you.

Right after Jesus speaks again of His passion, James and John are thinking about themselves. Foolish. If you can ask for anything from Jesus, what would it be? He says **What do you want me to do for you?** How would you respond....What do you want Him to do for you?

What would make these smelly, uncouth fishermen think they had the right? Grace. Thus, our Lord’s rebuke is not harsh. He is patient. For though they did not know what they were asking, they’re on the right track. They believed, trusted that God loved them, that they’re worthy in Christ not only to be in the kingdom but to be honored in it. They’re right. They would drink the Cup He drank. They asked for glory and got it.

The Zebedee boys knew that in the Kingdom of God the lowly are exalted. But they still didn’t realize that the lowly are exalted to lowly things here. And so for you! For in the Kingdom of Grace the King is a servant, the strong are weak, the faithful are full of doubts, the dead live, honor is only given to the humble. And no one is greater than the Master that serves. He left us with a book and 2 Sacraments that the world scoffs at, and in this lowliness is the greatest treasure on earth.

The Son of Man buys back rebels; His life as ransom, submits to their violence to bring peace and lets them do their worst to Him that He might give everything He has, everything He is. Even for us fools.

What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits, all His grace, all His love? We shall take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of Lord. He gives us not just the laborer's wages for work we did not do, He gives us all the vineyard's bounty. We harvest where we did not sow. We bask in light we didn't earn. We are blessed with prosperity we do not deserve. Our cups overflow.

The Son of Man lives to serve you. The stars sparkle in the heavens for no more reason than to give us light! All creation groans, waiting for the revelation that you are a son of God and the end of the curse.

They wanted the greatness, power, honor, authority. So do we. Our Lord does not grow angry with James, John. His mercy endures forever. He is kind, patient, forgiving. They recognize the heart of God. Though they're corrupt and impure, nonetheless, they desired a good and noble thing -wanted a place in His Kingdom. Though they knew not what they asked, God provided.

He sent them out into the world like lambs among wolves. They bore witness to the goodness of God in Christ Jesus. They played the fools again. They preached and worships this Man crucified, as though that was His intention and His love, as though He was not dead and was God.

They were fools for Christ: brash, impetuous, fearful, doubting, and weak. He perfect forgave them. He taught them to wait, same as us.

They are examples for us. They're glad to play the fool, to record for us their faults and their sins, their ambition and their pride to better show the character of the Servant. Jesus does not regret His death. He marches toward it with purpose. He longed to share it with you in Baptism. May He deliver us fools one and all to the same fate.

We join with James and John and the whole company of heaven. We drink the Cup He drank. The Son of Man unites us to Himself and to those on His right and left in this blessed Communion.

He makes you worthy so to ask for anything... what would it be? He says **What do you want me to do for you?** It is yours. It will be given you. Perhaps now according to His good and gracious will or you may have to wait for it but you will have it for eternity.