

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Mark 10: 35-45

35. And James and John, the sons of Zebedee and Florence, come suddenly unto Him with an spring in their step, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. And Jesus did raise an eyebrow and say, Come again? And they replied, We want you to do something for us. A favour, like.
36. And He said unto them, Ah, now I understand for thou hast used plain speech. What would ye that I should do for you this time?
37. They said unto Him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.
38. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask for that would be exceedingly uncomfortable. And not only that, if ye were to sit on my hands I would not be able to do anything. Like bless things from on high, for example. Or hold the orb. Much better that ye sit on a cushion instead. But I get your drift. I ask you, can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with? Think before ye answer that one.
39. And they said unto Him, If thy cup is filled with sweet wine we can. And is thy baptism different from that of John? For we did go to the Jordan river and were dipped therein. Upstream of the sheep, mark you. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of, though its rim shall be wiped with a clean linen cloth marked with a little cross freshly starched and ironed after each sip, and that shall be done for many ages yet to come; and with the baptism that I am baptised withal shall ye be baptised, and ye may be dipped or the water may be poured depending on your persuasion. And don't worry about sheep. And I nearly forgot – a shell is necessary. And godparents. Did I mention those? Good.
40. Where was I? Ah yes - but to sit on my right hand and on my left hand, and I speak figuratively here for chairs shall be provided with soft upholstery, that gift is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared who have studied the catalogue and chosen their seating design. Fleur-de-lis, perhaps.
41. And when the ten heard it, they began to be super-displeased with James and John and did cast doubts upon their parentage and suggest that their mother was not Florence but Ermintrude, for they knew that their father Zebedee was always thinking of his bed. And they did chide them with mutterings of, Boing, Boing, under their breath.
42. But Jesus called them to Him, and saith unto them, Chill out guys and cease thy mutterings. Ride ye not upon this roundabout of blame. And what's that rabbit doing over there? Oh, I see. (Let the reader understand.) Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, even as far as being called mayor or sheriff or minister or Grand Poobah; and their great ones exercise authority upon them with the force of law and privilege and something else which slips my mind at the moment. No matter.
43. But so shall it not be among you. Oh no! Whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister, or pastor, or even priest, depending on your traditions:
44. And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all, and behoves those who will wear pointed hats and call themselves bishop need to remember this. Now I've remembered! Long sticks with curved ends!
45. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many as a minister. Seriously. Administering ministry as best he can muster. And the disciples did think long on this declaration of substitutionary atonement but did not come to a common mind. No one ever did. And James and John were often reminded by them of their forwardness. [1] And it was dark. And time for bed.

Note 1. The writers of the Gospels did not let the matter drop but alluded to it several times in their accounts.