**THE PRICE OF BECOMING A LEADER**

Text: Matthew

* Mat 20:21 And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."
* Mat 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? "They said to Him, "We are able."
* Mat 20:23 So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but [it is for those] for whom it is prepared by My Father."

**INTRO:**

* Once we like new stuffs, we would like to know the price.
* If we really love them enough we don’t mind the price.
* Or we really take time to balance things, is it worth it?

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO BE AWARE OF THE PRICE OF BECOMING A LEADER
* AND NOT JUST BEING AWARE BUT PAY IT OFF.

**I. DRINKING THE CUP**

* BAPTISM OF FIRE
* When James & John were asked if they were able to pay the price for what they desired for, they said, “They are able”.
* So as not to be disappointed in prayers, ask yourself the same question.
* If you wanted to become a leader or great, did you check if you have enough or if you are able to pay the price?
* Would you be willing to die for it?
* Act 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out [his] hand to harass some from the church.
* Act 12:2 Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.
* Drinking the cup means, affliction, hardships, and even death itself.
* Mat 26:39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You [will].“
* 1Cr 3:12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation [with] gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,
* 1Cr 3:13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

**II. WHAT IS THE PRICE**

1. **SELF-SACRIFICE**

* A leader will no doubt have to give time and treasure, as well forego many pleasures,rewards,& vices.
* You must decrease for your way up. Go down to be up.

1. **REJECTION**

* A leader will find that people may not accept him as decision maker, person, or a friend.
* You can please all the people some of the time,
* Some of the people all the time,
* **BUT NOT ALL THE PEOPLE ALL THE TIME.**
* Even Jesus was rejected by His own (Mark 6:1-6), His own disciples, by the people who benefited most from Him.
* Those whom He healed were the same people who shouted, “CRUCIFY HIM”.
* Are you willing to be rejected?

1. **CRITICISM**

* A leader will face scrutiny and analysis
* There are people who are fault finders not path finders.
* More disappointing if the criticism comes from your colleagues or brethren.
* Ex. Moses Numbers 12

1. **LONELINESS**

* When you accept a special role, to be isolated is part of the deal.
* For Moses to qualify as deliverer of Israel, God has to mould him for 40 years in the wilderness.
* Even David was taken from the sheepfold to shepherd
* Israel, it was in his loneliness that God was able to prepare him.
* Loneliness could also mean, you’re on your own with the responsibility.
* Ex. Moses who desired to be killed
* Numbers 11:12 "Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,' to the land which You swore to their fathers?
* Numbers 11:16 So the LORD said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be
* the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you.

1. **PRESSURE**

* A leader will be tempted to use his position for personal gain
* With too much to do with less time to do it
* Pressure from enemies and colleagues.
* You might face pressure to overcome self-doubt

1. **FATIGUE**

* A leader will experience mental, physical, and spiritual exhaustion that come with serving and giving more of his time, energy, and soul for the benefit of others.
* Ex. Elijah who wanted to die after facing 850 false prophets in Mount Carmel-I King 19

1. RELATIONSHIPS

* 1Cr 7:34 There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world--how she may please [her] husband.
* We missed important occasions for the family.

1. **SELF-LOSS**

* Mat 16:25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
* Mat 16:26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
* Mat 16:27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

**III. ANALYSIS OF THE PRICE**

* If you don’t have enough money you can’t buy what you wanted
* These price then is what makes us ineffective if we don’t have them.
* Those who succeed in becoming a leader paid the price.
* Don’t take a free ride.

**IV. APPLICATION**

* When we realized that we don’t have enough, we start earning more and save more
* It would also mean spending less
* If anyone desires to follow Him, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Him-Luke 9:23
* Work is the key to earn, so for us to be able to pay the price of becoming a leader- WORK

**CHALLENGE:**

* When you ask for something in prayer, did you ask yourself if you are able to pay the price?
* Jesus paid it all but it doesn’t mean He will do the work for you.

**CONCLUSION:**

* Mat 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? "They said to Him, "We are able."