

Jesus speaks for a third time to the disciples of his impending trial and crucifixion. It isn't going to be a very pretty scene. They're strategizing and plotting out the attack just as they did against Jerimiah the prophet. And then from out of the blue one mom sensing opportunity decides to try and set her boys up. A mom asked me at a baptism if there was one thing, I could ask the child what would it be. You see there's lots of question the Church asks at baptisms. What's your name? Why are you here? Is it your free will? I said the only thing I might ask a smiling newborn is, what is God like? James and John's mother stands before Jesus with this remarkable request, and in reply they get the challenge of their lives. "Can you drink of the cup, I'm about to drink" In other words can you handle what I'm about to be served. Do you have the stuff of faith to bearer the difficult road ahead? The brothers answer quickly, but clearly are not privy to the future in the same way as Jesus.

What Mrs. Zebedee imagines is security in exchange for her son's faithfulness, in this or some other life. The other guys are upset, perhaps because they believe the request is insensitive or maybe because a mom out flanked them and asked Jesus first.

Maybe they're embarrassed. I don't know, but I do know moms and grandmas are pretty crafty.

Security and planning are fine but where we seek these comforts is often misguided. Our security is only truly discovered in Gospel faith and the Church's sacraments and not very many other places. Our Lenten journey reminds us that Jesus' death and resurrection are acts of love and lessons in humility. Stay calm and relax friends! There is no advantage over any other who seeks God's kingdom. Jesus' body and blood are plenty and have been shed that each and all might know the glory of our Loving God.

Amen