

“Sovereignty Defined”
Mark 10: 35 - 40
June 12, 2016

“... it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” (Mark 10: 40)

...the Mueller's set off for the United States in August 1877 aboard the Sardian...Off Newfoundland the weather turned cold and the ship's progress was seriously retarded by fog. The captain had been on the bridge for 24 hours when something happened which was to revolutionize his life. George Mueller appeared on the bridge.

"Captain, I have come to tell you I must be in Quebec by Saturday afternoon." "It is impossible," said the captain.

"Very well," said Mueller, "if your ship cannot take me, God will find some other way—I have never broken an engagement for 52 years. Let us go down into the chart-room and pray."

The Captain wondered which lunatic asylum Mueller had come from. "Mr. Mueller," he said, "do you know how dense this fog is?"

"No, my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God, who controls every circumstance of my life." Mueller then knelt down and prayed simply. When he had finished the captain was about to pray, but Mueller put his hand on his shoulder, and told him not to.

"First, you do not believe He will" and second, I believe He has, and there is no need whatever for you to pray about it." The captain looked at Mueller in amazement. "Captain," he continued, I have known my Lord for 52 years, and there has never been a single day that I have failed to get an audience with the King. Get up, captain, and open the door, and you will find the fog is gone."

1. Many times we will accept “sovereignty” as long as it benefits us.

- Our relationship with Christ grants us the opportunity to ask of Him.
“Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”
- In our relationship with Christ, He often times listens to our requests.
And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?”
- However, our relationship with Christ MUST govern what we ask for.
And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”

***** ONLY in Christ will you ever be truly content with what you have.**

Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope! Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually! (Psalm 119:116-117; ESV)

Are you resting in the Lord or chasing contentment that you will never find?

2. We forget; however, that “sovereign” means it is not up to us.

- Because Jesus is sovereign, He knows what is best.
Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking.
- Because Jesus is sovereign, He knows what we are able to do.
Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”
- Because Jesus is sovereign, He is gracious when we have deceived ourselves.
And they said to him, “We are able.”

***** ONLY in Christ will you be able to accomplish anything for His kingdom.**

...who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:5-7; ESV)

Whose plans are you living out; yours or the Lord's? What kind of success are you seeing?

3. In fact, “sovereign” means we receive with gladness what is given to us.

- As we submit to the Lord, He will prepare us for what He has purposed.
And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized,
- As we submit to the Lord, we are able to receive from Him what He offers.
but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.

***** ONLY in Christ will you with gladness receive what the Lord offers.**

Are you receiving what comes to you with gladness?

If God did not bless, not one hair, not a solitary wisp of straw, would grow; but there would be an end of everything. At the same time God wants me to take this stance: I would have nothing whatever if I did not plow and sow. God does not want to have success come without work, and yet I am not to achieve it by my work. He does not want me to sit at home, to loaf, to commit matters to God, and to wait till a fried chicken flies into my mouth. That would be tempting God. ~ Martin Luther

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