

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading

Mark 10:35-45 (shorter form Mark 10:42-45)

Jesus teaches that those who wish to be great must be the servant of all.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In this Sunday's Gospel, we continue to read from the section of Mark's Gospel that reports Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Last Sunday we heard Jesus lament the particular challenges those with many possessions face in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus then predicts his passion to the Twelve, who are amazed and afraid. In this part of Mark's Gospel, Jesus' words to his closest disciples seem to be intended to prepare them for the events that will occur in Jerusalem.

In today's Gospel, James and John ask to be given seats of honor when Jesus enters into his glory. Once again, the disciples seem to be selective in what they hear Jesus say. They want to share Jesus' glory, but do not appear to understand that his glory will be preceded by his suffering. Jesus notes their lack of understanding and predicts the suffering they will endure for the sake of the Gospel. Jesus says that the honor they seek is not his to give. When the other ten hear what James and John have asked, Mark reports that they are indignant. Jesus takes the opportunity to teach them.

Jesus explains the importance of service and sacrifice in the life of a disciple. In particular, he seems to be preparing the Twelve for their leadership roles in the emerging Christian community. Echoing the Gospel we heard several weeks ago (on the [25th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), Mark 9:33-37), Jesus acknowledges that his teaching is countercultural. In today's Gospel, Jesus contrasts the dynamics within the community of disciples with those shown by the rulers of the Gentiles.

Following Jesus' example of sacrificial love continues to be countercultural in our day as well. We might take this opportunity to consider our models of authority and examine our own exercise of authority. On whose example do we model our leadership?

Stand for the Gospel Reading:

A reading according to the gospel of Mark

(Sign of cross on forehead, lips and heart)

The Gospel of our Lord:

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Preparation for Sunday Scripture Readings

1. Invite children to think of different types of leaders in their lives, such as coaches, teachers, etc. Ask: **What are some things that leaders do?** (Help us be organized, tell us what to do, be in charge.)
2. Say: **In today's Gospel reading, Jesus talks about leaders. Listen carefully to what he says about them.**
3. Say: **Jesus said that some leaders act in ways to show that they are better or more important than other people. Then he talks about what it means to be a leader in the Kingdom of God. Ask: What did he say?** (that leaders will serve others) Say: **Jesus came to teach us about God's love and forgiveness and to save us from sin. He gave up his life so that we would have life forever in heaven with God. He shows us how to be a Christian leader by being helpful and loving to others.** Discuss how the leaders in children's lives serve them by helping them learn and have fun. Say: **We can be leaders too. When we put others' needs before our own and look for small ways to be helpful each day and to get along with others, we are being leaders.**
4. Pray that God will help you be his gentle, loving, helpful people. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

Reflection on Gospel reading

What makes a good leader? What good leaders have you known? How can you be a leader?

Activities:

Make a card or picture for one of the leaders in your life. (teachers, fire fighters first responders, etc.)

Prayers of the Faithful: (stand)

We pray for the leaders in our lives that they may be filled with the respectful and loving vision to guide us into peaceful times. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for the children all over the world that they may feel love and safety today. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

And for what else shall we pray?

Closing Prayer: Lord's prayer

Have the courage to lead with love and kindness!!

