

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

There is a difference between being *childish* and being *childlike*. Today we are called to imitate the simple honesty and transparency of a small child who can sometimes recognise truths that adults have not noticed.

The Lord tells us that those who are truly great are those who put others first. Let us acknowledge our own failings and our need of God's mercy.



Wisdom 2:12. 17-20

Wrongdoers are reluctant to trust people who focus on doing what is right and sometimes try to catch them out.

James 3:16 – 4:3

Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus says that anyone who welcomes a little child in his name welcomes Christ himself; and anyone who welcomes Christ welcomes not him but the Father who sent him.



Reflection

**"WHOEVER RECEIVES ONE CHILD SUCH AS THIS
IN MY NAME,
RECEIVES ME"**

The tone of the Gospel begins to grow darker: Jesus is now on his way to Jerusalem, where he will be arrested and killed. Despite this, both this week and next week, there is a lighter contrast in the children that Jesus welcomes and blesses. Perhaps this tells us something about Jesus and his mission: despite the gathering clouds, (and possibly even because of that) he is still the manifestation of God's love for all his children, a love that will be most clearly displayed when he faces that death for our sake.

There is one quite chilling phrase which links these together, in the first reading, where the plotters against the good man say "Let us test him with cruelty and torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his." The cold calculation of this is not far removed from the plotting of those who saw in Jesus a threat to their positions - with all his purity of worship and faith, with all his "reproaches for our breaches of the law". There is

indeed a storm gathering. But the last line of the first reading, though meant mockingly, will come true: “God will look after him - we have his word for it.” And three days after his death he will rise again.

In Mark's gospel, Jesus has now left Galilee where he was safe and took the first step towards Jerusalem and the Cross that awaited him there. For the second time, Jesus taught his followers about his coming passion and death, but they did not understand his words. When they arrived in Capernaum, Jesus asked his disciples what they had been arguing about on the way. They were embarrassed because they had been discussing what rank each would have in the kingdom. Jesus placed a small child in their midst and taught them an important lesson. People who wished to be his disciples should not be worrying about ambition and prestige. God's kingdom would be attained through service to the poor and lowly.



Anyone who served these little ones of simple faith were in reality serving Jesus and serving the Father who sent him.

GOSPEL WORDSEARCH

T	S	E	M	O	C	L	E	W	O	GALILEE	DEATH	SON	THREE
E	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	N	TWELVE	HOUSE	MAN	SERVANT
S	S	D	A	T	H	R	N	O	S	WELCOMES	LAST	RISE	CHILD
U	F	I	N	E	S	G	N	M	E				
O	I	R	R	D	V	A	D	C	R				
H	R	T	E	E	W	L	L	L	V				
O	S	A	P	N	I	I	E	E	A				
U	T	E	A	H	I	L	O	W	N				
H	I	M	C	O	E	E	R	H	T				
E	N	U	A	M	R	E	P	A	C				

