

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus came into the world and turned it upside down. He is the Son of God but teaches us that he is also the servant of all.

Jesus the Son of God has experienced our weaknesses and has faced temptation as we do. Let us approach the throne of grace, confident in his mercy.

Isaiah 53:10-11

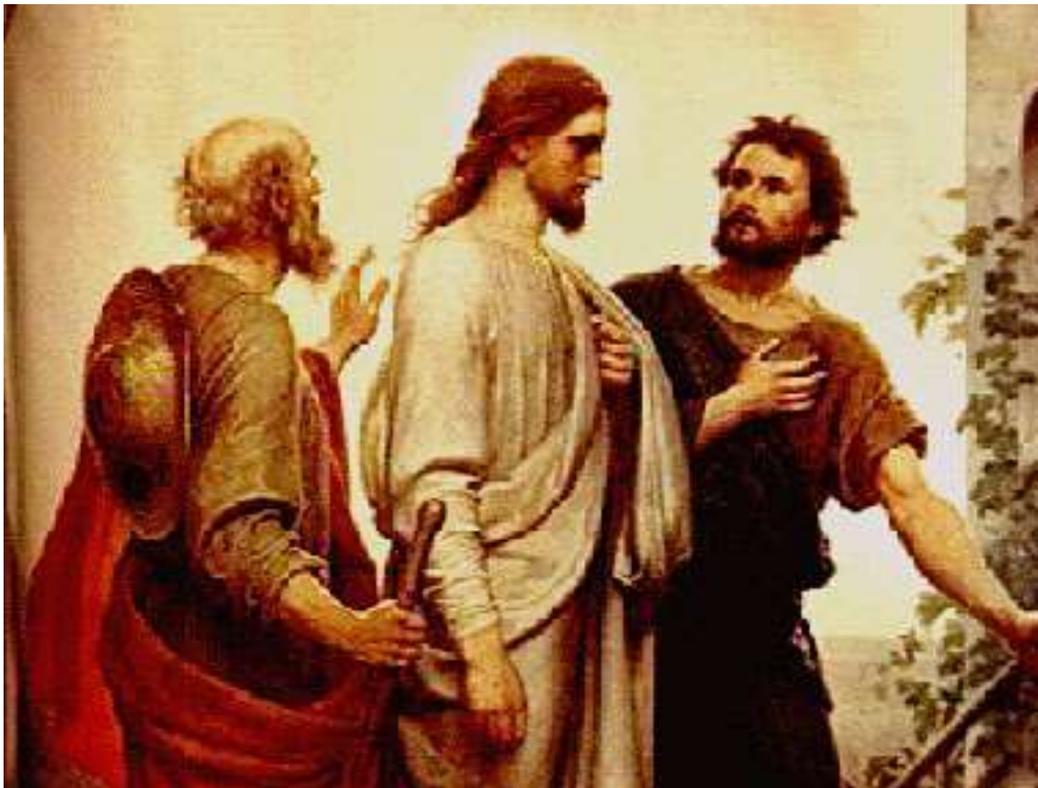
The Lord calls us to commit ourselves to him. While that might involve suffering, there is the promise of joy to come.

Hebrews 4:14-16

In following Jesus, Christians follow someone who, like them, has experienced the difficulties and hardships of life. We can be comforted that he is merciful.

Mark 10:35-45

Jesus is a different leader – rather than seek glory, he seeks to be a servant and to sacrifice his life to save other people.



Reflection

On three occasions, Jesus taught his disciples about his impending death, yet they were blind to the reality of what he was saying. Two disciples, James and John, approached Jesus to ask him if he would guarantee them a place of honor in his kingdom.

Were they thinking of the popular notion of the Messiah as one who would overcome Roman oppression and reclaim the throne of Jerusalem for his earthly kingdom? Jesus' concept of the Messiah was not one of power and greatness, but that of the "Suffering Servant" who suffered chastisement for the salvation of his people (Is 53: 5). Jesus told his disciples that they didn't understand what they were asking. Were they willing to share in his suffering as well as his glory? His disciples were not to imitate earthly rulers. They must become servants who, like Jesus, would give themselves for others.

**The Son of Man himself
did not come to be
served but to serve**

Mark : 10-45

It's often the case that the "values of the Gospel" contradict the "**values** of the World" sometimes to the extent that the one is the exact opposite of the other. Today is a typical example: greatness and prominence, success and victory, these are goals that the world has very clear ideas about.

The Gospel, however, redefines them: Gospel success is Worldly failure: the Gospel's way of greatness is the World's life of service; and what the World sees as death and failure is in fact life and victory.

It's this contrast that we see in the Gospel reading today, where out of a possibly innocent (but possibly sycophantic) question, a debate emerges about

prominence and greatness. Jesus makes it clear that his greatness is different to that sought “among the pagans” - he will give his very life, and so become the first of all. We should take his words about the “worldly way of behaving” to heart: “This is not to happen among you.”

GOSPEL WORDSEARCH

T	G	R	E	T	R	S	I	F	E	ZEBEDEE
O	N	T	N	A	V	R	E	S	Z	GLORY
T	N	A	G	E	D	T	Z	L	E	DRINK
S	S	E	N	R	H	E	E	A	B	INDIGNANT
I	S	R	I	G	B	N	B	E	E	CUP
T	Y	N	I	E	I	G	E	V	H	HAND
P	K	R	D	F	B	D	R	A	D	PAGANS
A	L	E	O	E	E	E	N	D	E	GREAT
B	E	V	A	L	S	D	Z	I	E	SERVANT
E	R	S	N	A	G	A	P	U	C	FIRST
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