

MARK 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

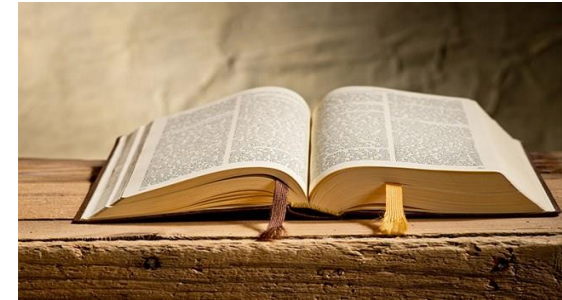
COMMENTARY: Obviously, the message here is service. It may be easy to believe, but to put into practice the notion of service to one another is far more difficult to put into practice. That is why the teaching comes in the context of reference to the passion of Jesus.

The question is how we relate this to our lives? How do I serve?

Liturgy of The Word

20.10.24

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

ISAIAH 53:10-11

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering.
If he offers his life in atonement,
he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life
and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.

His soul's anguish over,
he shall see the light and be content.
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many,
taking their faults on himself.

COMMENTARY: It is easy to see why the early Christians saw this text as relating to Jesus: *If he offers his life in atonement ...*

Jesus could see that an end had to be brought to the Jewish thinking regarding sacrifices offered for forgiveness. He wanted us to understand that it is in God's nature to forgive. Jesus used the idea of sacrifice, but as a once for all. It was his love for us which has made it perfect.

The important thing is to accept this and renew our commitment to growing in love for each other. His was a sacrifice offered in love and our growth comes about through a loving response to life.

HEBREWS 4:14-16

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

COMMENTARY: The humanity of Jesus is emphasised in this reading. Jesus was one who experienced our weaknesses, but was without sin. In other words: we were redeemed by a human being. Jesus had let go of his divinity. The question therefore to ponder is why we presume God has accepted the offering of Jesus.