The mother of the sons of Zebedee approached Jesus with her sons and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something. He said to her, "What do you wish?" She answered him, "Command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your Kingdom." Jesus said in reply, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?" They said to him, "We can." He replied, "My chalice you will indeed drink, but to sit at my right and at my left, this is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." When the ten heard this, they became indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant;
whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Our Scripture Reflection

The lust for power and prestige is great it seems even among the disciples of Our Lord Jesus. However, He will not change His teaching: “Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.” Jesus illustrated this teaching with His very life. After Him would come many Saints, martyrs and missionaries, who would do the same. The leaders of today’s Church and all who dare take up ministry in His Church at any level, must humble themselves otherwise they have no place either in His Church or ultimately, His Kingdom!

Food for your Journey

At the 100th anniversary of the arrival of missionaries in Zaire, Christians gathered to celebrate from that part of Zaire once called the Belgian Congo. The festivities lasted all day with music, preaching, food and conversations. Many reminisced about the early days and praised God for the progress of the gospel and the church.

Near the end of the long program, a very old man stood to give a speech. He said that he soon would die and that he needed to tell something that no one else knew. If he didn't tell, his secret would go with him to his grave. He explained that when the first white missionaries came, his people didn't know whether to believe their message or not. So they devised a plan to slowly and secretly poison the missionaries and watch them die. One by one, children and adults became ill, died and were buried. It was when his people saw how these missionaries died that they decided to believe their message.

Think of it -- those missionaries never knew what was happening. They didn't know they were being poisoned and they didn't know why they were dying. They didn't know they were martyrs. They stayed and died because they trusted Jesus. And it was the way they died that taught others how to live.

--Leith Anderson, Winning the Values War:

Thirteen Distinct Values That Mark a Follower of Jesus Christ

(Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1995), 198.
A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Strip me of all false pride, arrogance and self-concern that would make me lust for power and prestige. May I become truly humble and follow the example of My Lord Who came to serve and not be served. Amen