

Daily Reflections

The Divine Intervention

October 18, 2015

Scripture

Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

He replied, "What do you wish me to do for you?"

They answered him, "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left."

Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking.

Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

They said to him, "We can."

Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John.

Jesus summoned them and said to them,

"You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them,

and their great ones make their authority over them felt.

But it shall not be so among you.

Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant;
whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.
For 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

After having forecast His passion and death for the third time, James and John naively and selfishly request places of high honor in Jesus' Kingdom. How shameful is their request and just as shameful is the anger of the other disciples towards James and John for having "jumped the line", so to speak, with their request. Jesus, rather than get upset with their never-ending ignorance, will teach them about selfless and humble service. In doing so, He gives the job description of anyone who would dare claim to be a disciple (or minister):

"The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Food for your Journey

During the American Revolution, a man in civilian clothes rode past a group of soldiers who were busy pulling out a horse carriage stuck in deep mud. Their officer was shouting instructions to them while making no attempt to help. The stranger who witnessed the scene asked the officer why he wasn't helping. With great dignity, the officer replied, "Sir, I am a Corporal!" The stranger dismounted from his horse and proceeded to help the exhausted soldiers himself. When the job was completed, he turned to the corporal and said, "Mr. Corporal, next time you have a job like this, and don't have enough men to do it, inform your commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you again." Too late, the proud Corporal recognized General Washington. Washington understood that those who aspire to greatness or rank first among others must serve the needs of all. Where did Washington learn such leadership skills? I have no doubt he learned them here, in these words of Jesus: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." The young corporal had these words modeled for him by the man at the top. Jesus' disciples, likewise, receive from their leader a picture of servanthood.

James Moore tells about a man named George. George was a peacemaker with a big heart and wonderful sense of humor. George claimed he was, "so tenderhearted that he cried at supermarket openings!" Everyone at Church loved George. He was respected at the hospital

where he worked. The reason so many people loved George was because he was always kind and always respectful to everyone he met. His children vividly remember the days George spent in the hospital before he died. The president of the hospital paid him a visit. He and George talked like they were old friends. A couple of minutes later one of the janitors came to visit. And they spoke like they were old friends. When the janitor left, one of George's children said to him, "Dad, did you realize that you treated the president of the hospital and the janitor just alike?" George smiled, chuckled and said, "Let me ask you something, if the president left for two weeks and the janitor left for two weeks, which one do you think would be missed the most?" Then George called his children around his bed. "Let me show you something I carry in my pocket all the time, even when I mow the lawn." George pulled out a pocket-sized cross and a marble. George said, "On the cross are written these words, 'God Loves You,' and on the marble are these words, 'Do unto Others as You Would Have Them Do unto You.' The cross reminds me of how deeply God loves me, and the marble reminds me of how deeply God wants me to love others." [James W. Moore, *When All Else Fails* (Nashville: Dimensions for Living, 1993), p. 78.] That's A SERVANT'S HEART. That's the Heart Jesus wants us all to have as we seek to serve Him and become more and more like Him each day by giving Him our heart.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Even though You are the Lord and Master of us all, You chose to humble Yourself for us through Your Passion and Death. Lord, shrink our super-sized egos and make us humble so that we may experience the peace that only You can bring. Amen.



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