

SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday Sept 18th for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER: Loving God, in today's Word you teach us that an important part of true discipleship involves humble trust in you and a willingness to serve others. As we reflect on your Word together, deepen our love for you and each other. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- In the words of Saint Benedict, "Listen with the ears of your heart."
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today's passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK Mark 9:30-37

The Second Prediction of the Passion.

30^g They left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it.^h

31 He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death he will rise."

32 But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.

THE FULL REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY

The Greatest in the Kingdom.*

33 They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"ⁱ

34 But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest.

35 Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”ⁱ

36 Taking a child he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it he said to them,

37 “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.”^k

Notes

* [9:29] This kind can only come out through prayer: a variant reading adds “and through fasting.”

* [9:33–37] Mark probably intends this incident and the sayings that follow as commentary on the disciples’ lack of understanding (Mk 9:32). Their role in Jesus’ work is one of service, especially to the poor and lowly. Children were the symbol Jesus used for the *anawim*, the poor in spirit, the lowly in the Christian community.

* [9:38–41] Jesus warns against jealousy and intolerance toward others, such as exorcists who do not follow us. The saying in Mk 9:40 is a broad principle of the divine tolerance. Even the smallest courtesies shown to those who teach in Jesus’ name do not go unrewarded.

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. “If we were truly in touch with our giftedness and blessings, we would never suffer from feelings of jealousy.” Agree or disagree? Why? In your opinion, what causes us to be jealous of others? What will help us to be freed of this vice?

2. How would you distinguish false ambition from true ambition? How does one seek to get ahead in the work situation without succumbing to false ambition?
3. What will help us to grow in humble service particularly when we are in a leadership position?
4. What is one thing Jesus is saying to us in this Sunday's Gospel about how a disciple should speak or act? And what do you need to do or change to be a better disciple?

Commentary

This is Mark's third lesson on discipleship. The true disciple is one who seeks to serve rather than be served. The Gospel opens with Jesus' second prediction about his suffering and death. The disciples have no idea what Jesus is talking about. Their lack of understanding shows when they get into a discussion as to who among them will be the most important in the new Kingdom Jesus is about to establish. When Jesus arrives, they fall silent because they are embarrassed to tell him what they have been arguing about. Jesus teaches another lesson on the nature of discipleship. He illustrates his lesson by standing a child in their midst. (In Aramaic, the same word is used for a child and servant.) Jesus then tells his ambitious disciples: "If you want to be truly great, you must learn to be humble and unimportant like this little child." The best and purest kind of service is that rendered to the most insignificant members of society, symbolized here by a child. Jesus is also saying that false ambition is the desire to rule over others—which is very damaging to the unity of a community. True ambition, on the other hand, is the desire to serve others—which helps build a strong community. Here, Jesus does not condemn ambition but rather redefines it.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom

Wednesday, Sept 18 6:30 – 7:30pm
Weekly on Wednesday
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting
Time: Sept 18, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosEg23wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618
Passcode: 280607