

I Don't Know About You...But...This is Hard!

29th Week of Ordinary Time – Mark 10:35-45

We have arrived at the 29th week of the liturgical year. There are only five more weeks until Advent! So as we get closer to the Feast of Christ the King, November 25th, the gospel from Mark is getting more and more challenging. Jesus' teaching this week continues to reinforce the notion that to be one of his disciples, we must not seek our own desires, but rather, the will of God. I don't know about you but I think this is very difficult. I have to admit that I'm more like James and John, on any given day, than I am at fulfilling my role as one of Jesus' disciples.


James and John are all about what Jesus can do for them versus what he is asking them (us) to do. Their initial inquiry is, **"Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."** Oh, this sounds so much like my on-going prayer life. I want from God what I want and I don't want what gets dished out to me most days. I'm kind of a whiner. I don't always like how I behave...but I guess that is really the reason that I need a Savior. I can't do this by myself.

The gospel of Mark was written two thousand years ago. Yet, we can hear the same competitive banter that goes on today, **"Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left."** James and John said it and the other ten were indignant. Everyone is looking for recognition, credit and fame. Everyone wants to be number one. Sound familiar? I recognize it in the newspaper, on TV, in politics and it is lurking within my own soul. I want what I want, not what God has planned. Yes, Jesus, I need you in the on-going conversion of my heart each day because it isn't easy...it is hard to be one of your disciples.

The formula to be a disciple seems easy enough as Jesus explains to the twelve, **"whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all."** It sounds doable until he adds that last piece. **"For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for the many."** This is the piece that requires our full attention to the Divine because we can't do this part on our own. We must surrender to God our need for fame and fortune and be willing to suffer for the sake of the Kingdom. This is the baptism we have all received. This is the cup of suffering that is part of the human condition.

The only way discipleship can be manifest in us is when we take time to develop and maintain an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus Christ through continual prayer, discernment of our call, reflection and meditation on the scriptures, participation in the weekly Saturday/Sunday Eucharist and a willingness to listen to Jesus' gentle voice calling us to model and follow the Him.

Blessings!


Sue Schettler