



ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO-CATECHETICAL MINISTRY
Module 55 (September 19, 2021) 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time- Cycle B
Theme: Journeying in Faith as Disciples of Christ
Mk 9:30-37



INTRODUCTION

Ask the group to name some people who are famous (actors, athletes, politicians, and so on).
 Why are these people famous?
 Name some of the things that people do to become famous.

Other people become famous because they have accepted important jobs, such as leaders of government and politicians.

Would you like to be famous? Why or why not?

In today's Gospel, we learn that some of Jesus' first disciples argued about who among them was the greatest or the most important.

They even wanted to be famous! Jesus teaches them something surprising about what it means to be great in God's eyes. Let us see what Jesus tells them in today's Gospel Story.



OPENING PRAYER

Prayer for Our Minds to be Open

Lord, you are the creator of all things,
 the author of life, and our loving Father.
 We thank you for your faithful presence in our lives,
 and we thank you for the Word of God.

As we prepare to listen to your Word together,
 we ask you to open our minds.
 Help us to hear you amid outside voices
 Allow us to hear only what you long to speak to us.

Open our minds so we can understand you, your Holy Word,
 and to follow you in our lives
 We ask this prayer through Christ, our Lord,
 Amen. (adapted from <https://prayrs.org>)



PHASE ONE
REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS

Proclamation of the Gospel Story Mk 9:30-37

Enthroned the Bible on a table with lighted candle) A moment of prayerful silence

We will not be able to understand the Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God has called us through the Gospel
 to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Mark
 All: Glory to you O Lord



Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee,
 but he did not wish anyone to know about it.
 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 the Son of Man will rise."
 But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house,
 he began to ask them,
 "What were you arguing about on the way?"
 But they remained silent.
 They had been discussing among themselves on the way
 who was the greatest.
 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."
 Taking a child, he placed it in their midst,
 and putting his arms around it, he said to them,
 "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."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord
 All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer

What struck me most in the Gospel Reading today?

1.3 Text in Context

Last Sunday's Gospel we heard "Jesus' first lesson on catechism" to his disciples, asking them, Who do you say I am? He had to correct their false understanding of him as the Messiah. Jesus had to teach them patiently until his real self is fully known to them.

In today's Gospel Mark presents Jesus again as a patient teacher in his Jesus' second attempt to help his disciples understand who his real identity. Notice again the reaction of the disciples this time and why Jesus has to use the image of a child to explain his point to them.

1. What do you remember Jesus saying about himself in the Gospel reading last Sunday?
2. What about in today's gospel, what did Jesus teach his disciples? (The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.)
3. Why do you think he had to repeat it?
4. What were the disciples arguing about as they journeyed with Jesus? (They were concerned about who was greatest.)
5. What do you think made them argue on who is the greatest?
6. What did Jesus do (he took a child in their midst)
7. What does the child symbolize? (the image of a child symbolizes great trust and dependence on God)
8. What does Jesus tell them? (serving others makes a person great.)

PHASE II REFLECT the Story
of the Church
(Teachings of the Church)



In Gospel of Mark, Jesus predicted his coming passion three times. Israel expected the Messiah as their only hope under the oppressive domination of the Roman Empire which was the

world's symbol of power at Jesus' time. We know that the people were waiting for the Messiah according to their way of thinking and not the true Messiah that tells us who God is

Today's Gospel Reading tells about the second prediction of Jesus of his Paschal Mystery (death, passion, resurrection) while on the road in the region of Galilee.

The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise."

Jesus must be on the peak of his public ministry in the proclamation of the kingdom of God. The disciples must have enjoyed for a while the company of Jesus. – his teachings, miracles, wisdom and even his fame among the people. Being identified as one of Jesus' company, They must have been treated with respect and importance among Jesus' followers. They had good motivation of having believed and followed him but perhaps had become lost and confused amid the world's attractions to power and being above others.

Like the disciples, we need to grow in our Christian life. Let us examine ourselves where we are in this process of maturing in our faith. Pope Francis identified three steps: (Eucharistic Congress. September 12, 2020- Budapest)

1. Proclamation of Jesus
2. Discerning with Jesus
3. Walking Behind Jesus

PROCLAMATION OF JESUS

We believe in Christ, as the Son of God. At mass, after the consecration of Christ's Body and Blood we proclaim:

Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

(one of the three options in the proclamation mystery of the faith)

This reminds us that the true Messiah suffers on the cross. But his suffering and death brings new life (resurrection) that saves us from our sin.

Behind this truth of our faith, we may have our own false messiah. We want a messiah who is powerful and triumphant. He should not suffer and die because he is "God".

The Eucharist is here to remind us who God is. It does not do so just in words, but in a concrete way, showing us God as bread broken, as love crucified and bestowed. We can add ritual elements, but the Lord is always there in the simplicity of Bread ready to be broken, distributed and eaten. To save us, Christ became a servant; to give us life, he accepted death.

DISCERNING WITH JESUS

We know that Jesus is a good teacher. He taught them from the people's own experience. So Jesus asked them "What were you arguing about on the way?"

The disciples' silent reaction tells us one thing. They realized that they were too much interested of what would best serve individual interest. The disciples simply did not understand Jesus. They were even afraid to ask him question. In their conversation the attitude of wanting to be on top of the other came out: *Who will take the best position when Jesus wins over his enemies?*

The "triumphant Jesus" cannot be the Cross that he had been taking about. So they might as well talk about their own victory.

The cross is never attractive to all of us. We all shun the cross. But if we allow ourselves to gaze at the Crucified Christ, we will *experience a fruitful interior struggle, a bitter conflict between "thinking as God does" and "thinking as humans do"*.

What is God's way of thinking? It is always gentle and humble love that heals. It is freeing, and never uses his using power that dominates. Jesus uses the image of a child who is helpless and dependent. It takes the simplicity of a child to grasp the love that God offers.

What is human way of thinking? *It is the world's wisdoms such as honour and privileges, and prestige and success. Here the things that count are self-importance and power and whatever attracts the most attention and respect in the eyes of others.*

In the simple image of the bread, God invites us to take side.

How different is Christ, who presents himself with love alone, from all the powerful and winning messiahs worshiped by the world!

Let us make time for adoration before the Eucharist in order to contemplate God's weakness.

Let us allow Jesus the Living Bread to heal us of our self-made image of God.

WALKING BEHIND JESUS

Hearing the disciples' argument over greatness,

Jesus said: *"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."*

Christian journey is not all about success and triumph. It is walking behind the real Jesus and not the Jesus that one makes for oneself. A follower of Jesus steps back in order to let him be the centre and not himself.

Making Jesus as the center of one's life means seeing his face to those in need especially the poor.

How do I follow the footsteps of Jesus who came to serve and not be served?

How do I step out each day to an encounter with the members of my family and community?

How does my devotion to the Eucharist impel me to such encounter, to the realization that we are one Body?

Am I willing to be broken for others like Jesus in the Eucharist?

PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal faith /community faith story

What is God inviting us to do to improve the way we serve each other in the family and community?

What would best describe a person who would like to serve the community or the country as a leader?

National election is coming next year in May 2022. What kind of a leader do you think God wants from us as a nation at this difficult time?



CLOSING PRAYER

Prayer for Generosity (St. Ignatius of Loyola)

Lord, teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve you as you deserve;

to give and not to count the cost,

to fight and not to heed the wounds,

to toil and not to seek for rest,

to labor and not to ask for reward,

save that of knowing that I do your will.

Amen.

CCC 571 The Paschal mystery of Christ's cross and Resurrection stands at the center of the Good News that the apostles, and the Church following them, are to proclaim to the world. God's saving plan was accomplished "once for all" by the redemptive death of his Son Jesus Christ

CCC 572 The Church remains faithful to the interpretation of "all the Scriptures" that Jesus gave both before and after his Passover: "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Jesus' sufferings took their historical, concrete form from the fact that he was "rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes", who handed "him to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified".=