



INTRODUCTION

Have you been assigned to take care of others or were you given responsibility? (in the family, parish or other groups) What was it like to be the leader or the person in charge? What was your experience?

Stress the role of a leader who is usually put into temptation of using one's power over the other, particularly when difficulty arises.

Lead the group to have picture of the country's situation during this time of preparation for the election in May 2022

Many persons are on the line for becoming the leaders of the country with the intention of serving the people.

In today's Gospel reading, let us hear what Jesus tells us about being a true leader or a true servant of others? Or better call it **true servant leader**



OPENING PRAYER

Any Song or prayer to the Holy Spirit.



PHASE ONE REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS

Proclamation of the Gospel Story

Enthroned the Bible on a table with lighted candle)

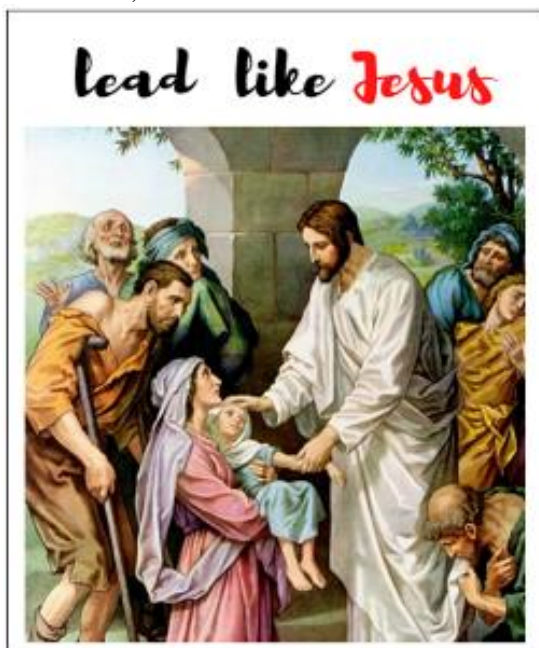
A moment of prayerful silence

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.

The Son of Man came to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for many.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mk 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."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer \

What did Jesus teach his apostles about becoming the greatest?

1.3 Text in Context

In this Sunday's Gospel, we continue to read from the section of Mark's Gospel that reports Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. In this part of Mark's Gospel, Jesus' words to his closest disciples seem to be intended to prepare them for the events that will occur in Jerusalem.

1. What was the request of James and John to Jesus?

Grant that in your glory

we may sit one at your right and the other at your left."

2. What do you think this line means for James and John?

Perhaps they would like to get a good position if ever Jesus would become popular among the people who would put him into power.

3. How do you think Jesus feel upon hearing James' and John's request? Jesus knows that they do not know the real meaning of their request. What did Jesus say 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?"

4. How did John and James react to the reply of Jesus?

They were confident that they can do it as he said.

5. What does Jesus mean with *the cup that he will drink and baptism he will receive*?

They point to the suffering and death that await him in Jerusalem

6. What does Jesus mean when he said: *to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared."*?

Jesus cannot give them the honor they seek because it is the Father's work to reward those who deserve it.

7. How did Jesus explain the building of the kingdom of God?

Those who wish to be first in God's kingdom must be the servant of all.



In the last two Sundays, we have been hearing stories from Chapter 10 in Mark's Gospel. While traveling from Galilee to Jerusalem, many people followed Jesus including his closest friends, the Apostles.

Jesus took time to listen to them with their questions. Do you remember the question of the Pharisees about divorce (10:2)? Can you also recall the rich young man's question of how to enter eternal life (10:17)?

Jesus' encounter with them are moments of making the values of the kingdom known.

We know what awaits Jesus in Jerusalem, where he would suffer and die. Jesus told his disciples about this but they could not get what Jesus meant.

How could such a great man like Jesus allow himself to die in the hands of his enemies? The Father will never permit it to happen.

Since many people followed Jesus, including the apostles, they must have thought of Jesus' becoming the leader of Israel. They saw in him the kind of person who could bring back the golden years of King David. The common people were tired of religious and local leaders as well as the Roman rule who made their life more difficult. They wanted to be saved from the condition of oppression and the rule of power. They looked forward to the coming of the Savior, the Messiah, who could save them.

WHO IS JESUS in his suffering?

About 250 years before Jesus was born, Prophet Isaiah (750 BCE) described an unknown person whom he called a servant. This servant would suffer in exchange for the peace and healing of people who had sinned.

Because of his affliction, he shall see the light in fullness of days; through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. (Isaiah 53:10)

The word *affliction* means great pain and suffering. It is normal for us to avoid suffering which puts down one's dignity and spirit. Does it please God to have Jesus experienced great affliction?

No one can save us from the ocean of sin. Jesus is like a boat that rescues us. A sin is an act of rebellion against God's love and goodness. Sin cuts off our relationships with God, neighbors, and creation. Jesus' offering of his life on the cross brings us back to God. Only Jesus can restore this broken relationship for all especially to those who do not deserve it. This is the power of God's love. We are saved by God (salvation), no matter how sinful we are. This is the path of which God can save us. This is how God's justice works.

Jesus made this mystery of his suffering known to his disciples, but they failed to understand him. The apostles and the people who followed Jesus had a high hope in Jesus. Seeing all his miracles and hearing his wise teaching, they all the more believed in Jesus' power to put down all the enemies. So, he was the best person to lead them. No wonder the apostles thought this way like James and John who asked Jesus: *Grant that in your glory, we may sit one at your right and the other at your left.*

Do I believe that Jesus really saves me? When was that moment when I felt that God loves me in the ugliest part of myself?

WHO IS THE GREATEST?

The two brothers could imagine themselves sharing the great power of Jesus as he sits in the "thrones of glory" as king to rule Israel. For them to be saved is to have a reserved seat in the kingdom of God.

But Jesus immediately responded to them:

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

Hoping for a privileged position, the two confidently answered. *Yes, we can do it.*

James and John did not understand the meaning of the cup that Jesus will drink.

Jesus' cup is the cup of suffering.

The whole life of Jesus shows a life of service. All his preaching points to the Father's love and not gain for recognition from the people. The miracles and healing he performed show the values of God's kingdom in the spirit of freedom, not in dominance. His love saves and does not destroy.

We will see later in the life of the apostles that almost all the apostles died martyrs. They would all share in the cup of Jesus' suffering when the time comes. That is when they go out outside Jerusalem after Jesus' death to share the Good News.

Jesus then said "to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared" (v. 40).

Here Jesus is not interested of worldly glory but he seems to say. *My Father will reward those who forget what pleases the self in order to serve others. Learn to love. Learn to serve.*

Talking to the other ten disciples who were not pleased hearing James and John seeking for a privileged position, we hear Jesus telling them:

*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."*

We see in the Gospel, that Jesus spent all his life in service. His healing, preaching, miracles are all forms of service. His final act of service is his self-donation at Calvary to save us from our sins.

God's saving act is loud and clear. Humble service is the way of Christ. To be the last and the least is the way to be great. Followers of Christ do not wait to be served. They do not wait to be recognized or be given importance.

In our family and community, there are some persons known to us, who have lost their way.

Let us be servants to them especially to those who are unlovable or *hard to love*.

We may have the temptation to say they do not deserve our help because they have chosen to live the bad way.

How do we help them so that they may experience the saving love of Jesus?

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

The person of Jesus is a model of a leader and a servant. During this time of preparation for Philippines National Election 2022, who are the candidates whom you consider qualified to be servant leaders of our people who hoping for a better life.



CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty Father, we thank you for your great plan of saving us. We thank you for sending us your Son, Christ our Lord,

Jesus, Our Savior, you love and save us from our sin. You offer yourself to each one of us, so that we may be healed from the wounds caused by sin. Help us to follow you just as you have followed the Father.

Holy Spirit, be our guide and light in our journey of loving and serving others. Make us strong to fight our love for self that separates us from your love. Help us to be true servants like Jesus. Amen

