

My Dear St. Francis of Assisi Family,

We all have been part of a family holiday wherein everyone's trying to get a word in edgewise. Maybe Uncle Joe is dominating the conversation, or Aunt Sally is constantly seeking attention. We've all witnessed these dynamics, haven't we? This yearning to be heard, to be seen as important within our family or social circles, is a fundamental part of being human.

In our Gospel this Sunday, we encounter a similar scenario. James and John, two of Jesus's disciples, approach him with a rather bold request: to sit at his right and left hand in his glory. It's a scene that's both humorous and relatable. Their ambition, though maybe a bit audacious, reflects a very human desire for importance and status.

But Jesus, with his characteristic wisdom and compassion, gently steers them – and us – in a different direction. He reminds them that true greatness isn't about positions of power or worldly accolades. Instead, it's about humble service, about putting the needs of others before our own. He says, "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all."

These words challenge our deeply ingrained notions of success and achievement. In a world that often celebrates power, wealth, and fame, Jesus invites us to embrace a different path – a path of humility, selflessness, and service. He calls us to follow his example, the example of the one who, though he was God, "did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

This message isn't just for those in leadership positions. It's a call to all of us, no matter our role in life, to embrace a spirit of service and humility. It's an invitation to look for ways to help those around us, to put their needs before our own, and to use our gifts and talents for the good of others.

As we reflect on this Gospel passage, let's ask ourselves: how can we better serve those entrusted to us in life? How can we cultivate a spirit of humility in our hearts? May we be inspired by Jesus's example and strive to become true servants of all.

Blessings.

Fr. Vincent