

## BUT IT SHALL NOT BE SO AMONG YOU

Jesus defines glory: “The cup that I drink, **you** will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, **you** will be baptized” (Mk: 10:39), meaning:

- The mark of a disciple is **cross bearing**.
- What is involved in “cross bearing”? **Whatever it takes** to give Christ first place in my life!
- Without a cross there can never be a crown. The standard of greatness in the Kingdom is the standard of the Cross.

Jesus further defines what it means to be cross bearing, “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**” (Mk: 10: 43-45).

For the disciple, greatness/glory comes in **service**. It’s cross bearing because it’s not about me (egoism) but about serving the needs of others.

Service breaks the grip of egoism in our lives. We were created to serve God by serving others.

**Questions** implied in today’s Gospel: For what purpose do we do what we do? What are we living our lives for? Who are we going to listen too?

A benefit (and there are many) of belonging to a church family, is it will help me **find my place to make a difference**.

**Class 301:** “Grow with Me” Discovering My Ministry (**Serve**). Class 301 is designed to help you discover your unique S.H.A.P.E. for ministry.

- **S** Spiritual Gifts-**H** Heart-**A** Abilities-**P** Personality-**E** Experience

Only in imitating the **servanthood** of Christ do we experience the true depth of our faith.

What's in it for me, for us? James and John are scheming to get special treatment, angling to get a better deal. They want glory, to sit at Jesus' side in his kingdom. James and John still imagine that Jesus will be a powerful earthly king, ruling over an independent and free Jewish people.

Jesus corrects James and John's misconception. They desire glory and so Jesus uses this opportunity to explain again Christian discipleship which is not the way of the world.

When Jesus says: "but it shall not be so among you", he is inviting us to rethink how we are living our lives. We are never "there," having arrived at Christian perfection, with nothing more to do. The message of Jesus consistently calls us to go deeper, question more, and change our behavior to more closely match the master.

"But it shall not be so among you is perhaps the biggest challenge of today's Gospel, calling us not to settle, not to accept 'business as usual' not to accept injustice as "the way things are", not to justify our flexible morals with the mantra "everybody does it."

- For what purpose do we do what we do?
  - Are we seeking the golden ring?
  - The life of retirement and leisure?
  - Do we want to be the most important or admired person in the room?
  - Is personal glory the goal?
  
- What am I living my life for?
  - People or possessions?
  - Riches or relationships?
  
- Who am I going to listen too?
  - Madison Avenue or the Master?
  - Culture or Christ?
  - The world or the Word?

The Church will help me find my place to make a difference.

We were created with a desire to aspire, a need to succeed, to make a difference in the life of others and in the world.

We were not created to take up space, breath air, use up resources, consume and then die.

We are created for service, our highest calling.

Perhaps we will be asked a couple of questions when we see God : What did you do with the stewardship of your life? How did you use your life? To serve others? To make a difference? To give back? To make a contribution?