

Take 2 With Jesus
Daily Reflections for the Year of Grace
Week beginning Sunday 17th October.

Jesus teaches how to serve.

This week's reflections are based on the Gospel reading for the 29th Sunday Ordinary Time Year B, Mk 10:35-45. Further reflections on this Gospel can be found at <http://www.prayasyoucan.com.au/sunday/show/604/gospel>.

Sunday

*James and John approached Jesus and said,
'Master, we want you to do us a favour.'
(Mk 10:35)*

The question they asked, though very open-ended, revealed a telling attitude. They expected Jesus to shape their lives according to their own expectations, which revolved around power, prestige and influence for themselves. How selfish was that? While Jesus had come to serve, he was not to dance attendance on their wishes.

Loving Jesus, save me from my selfish demanding self and let me be open to what is truly best for others and me.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by pondering on what desires are behind your prayers to Jesus.

Monday

*Jesus said to James and John,
'What is it you want me to do for you?'
(Mk 10:36)*

This is a crucial question that often arises in the Gospels and it is one we regularly need to hear Jesus ask us. We need to state the desires and dreams that we want him to fulfil. As we bring them to him in prayer, we can allow him to sift through them and reveal to us the motives, both good and bad, that are underlying these dreams and desires.

Loving Jesus, let me hear you ask me what I want from you. Let me be honest in answering, and then open to your Spirit's power to refine and use my desires for good.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by realising how your motives can be mixed even in desires for good things.

Tuesday

*James and John said to Jesus,
'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.'
(Mk 10:37)*

They wanted the privilege of power without the labour and responsibility that the good exercise of authority entails. As any good parent, teacher, doctor, priest, etc. knows, their position is easily assumed but laboriously fulfilled.

Loving Jesus, help me to see that authority is not about being above people but about using my gifts and talents in loving service.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by noting the situations in which you have to exercise authority. What is your attitude?

Wednesday

*Jesus asked,
'Can you drink the cup that I must drink,
or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?'*
(Mk 10:38)

How much of our lives is spent avoiding the difficulties and challenges we need to face in order to be fully alive? Avoidance is often the dynamic driving mindless entertainment and shopping, and especially addictions. Real growth only takes place when we face our needs and our suffering.

Loving Jesus, let your Spirit's wisdom teach me how to face suffering and challenge in ways that will allow me to grow in your love.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by noticing the times you do mindless and destructive things to avoid facing issues.

Thursday

*Jesus said,
'You know how among the pagans, the so-called rulers like to dominate,
and their great men throw their weight around. That is not to happen among you.'*
(Mk 10:42-43)

Why do we want to have power over other people? Is it because it gives us a sense of importance? But in this type of importance, we put ourselves up by putting others down. Risky business that, and it is sure to bring about a fall. We are important but that comes because we are precious in the eyes of God.

Loving Jesus, let me know how precious I am in your sight. Let me dwell on this truth and own it especially when I have to exercise authority.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by watching how you speak when you have to exercise authority.

Friday

*Jesus said,
'Anyone who wants to be great among you must be your servant,
and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all.'
(Mk 10:43-44)*

When we realise how precious we are in the eyes of God, we can begin to act in a Godlike way: we can care and serve all around us in the differing interactions we have. But we cannot do this from ourselves. No, the service we need to offer is a gift from God.

Loving Jesus, help me to draw my strength and wisdom from knowing how much you love me. As I am treated by you, so may I treat others.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by noticing how God's love comes to you through the service of other people.

Saturday

*Jesus said,
'For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.'
(Mk 10:35)*

Words are cheap but true love isn't. True love shows itself in service and, if necessary, in sacrifice. In the life of Jesus, we see what this looks like. For thirty years he lived the simple life of a villager, simply being with people. For three years, he taught and served publicly. Then in his costly death, he loved and forgave even in the midst of hatred and betrayal.

Loving Jesus, may I love and serve differently in the differing situations of my life. Show me how I should act, teach me how to be tender and when to be tough.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by recognising the different sacrifices that others have made for you and what their love means to you.