

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LOOK

How would you define power? What does power look like? How do you know if you have it?

BOOK

Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then 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 hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

- 1) In the preceding verse, Jesus has told the disciples for the third time that he is going to die. Why do you think James and John asked for what they did? Did they not believe Jesus when he talked about suffering and dying? Or were they faithfully anticipating his ultimate triumph?
- 2) What does Jesus mean when he asks if the disciples can "drink the cup" and "be baptized" like he will be? (This is prior to the 'last supper'. Cup and baptism were symbols of trial.)
- 3) What does the servanthood that Jesus shows us look like?

TOOK

If you could ask Jesus for anything, what would you ask for?

Are power and glory always a bad thing? Can't we do a great deal of good when we have power?

Barbara Brown Taylor writes in Bread of Angels that the power to serve is the greatest power of all, the 'ultimate trickle up effect'. How is serving powerful?

Humility that is freely assumed is different than subjection under a master or tyrant. Discuss the differences between humble servanthood and being a slave. (You have to have a self in order to choose to give it away.)

Do we have to give up power in order to serve?

How will you serve in a new way this week?