

*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*

October 18, 2015

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

*Isaiah 53:4-12*

*Psalms 91:9-16 (9)*

*Hebrews 5:1-10*

*Mark 10:35-45*



**Winning the Prize** Object: A blue ribbon, a gold medal, a trophy.

As you probably know, whenever there is a contest, the person who finishes in first place is awarded a blue ribbon. Sometimes they may get a gold medal or perhaps a trophy like this one. It gives you a good feeling to be a winner, doesn't it? After all, you have worked hard and it is nice to hear the applause of others when you are awarded the prize. When someone sees that you have a blue ribbon, a gold medal, or a trophy, they know that you have done something very special.

James and John were two brothers who were disciples of Jesus. They thought that they were deserving of special recognition in the Kingdom of God. Now they knew that Jesus didn't hand out blue ribbons, gold medals, or trophies, so they decided between themselves just what special honor they deserved. They went to speak to Jesus privately. "Teacher," they said, "we want to ask you a favor of you."

"What do you want?" Jesus asked.

They answered, "When you are seated on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and one on your left."

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Are you willing to suffer as I am going to suffer?"

"Oh yes," they replied, "we are able."

"You may be able to suffer as I will suffer. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen."

No doubt James and John were disappointed by Jesus' answer, and when the other ten disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were furious. After all, they were as deserving of this honor as James and John. Jesus heard their fussing and called all of them together. "You've seen how rulers in this world throw their weight around," he said, "and when someone gets a little power it quickly goes to their head. It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be the servant of all."

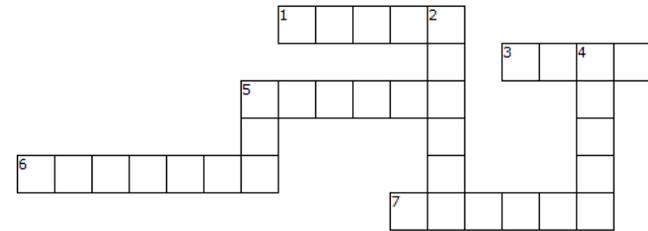
So you see, the Kingdom of God isn't about recognition, praise, and a seat of honor. It is about service to others. To see what that means, all you have to do is look at the life that Jesus lived. He came not to be served, but to serve, and he gave his life so that we could have eternal life. That is the greatest prize anyone could have.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many. Alleluia (Mark 10:45)

Heavenly Father, may we, like Jesus, live a life of service to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

1. The direction that is the opposite of left
3. The direction that is the opposite of right
5. To feel physical or mental pain
6. A person who works for another person
7. to be in front; to be first

### DOWN

2. A special chair used by a king or queen
4. To do something to help someone, often after they ask you to do it
5. To occupy a chair

RIGHT	LEFT	SERVANT	LEADER
THRONE	FAVOR	SUFFER	SIT

**BLUE RIBBON:** Provide the children with wide blue ribbon or blue construction paper to make a blue ribbon and write SERVE OTHERS on it. Give the children some stickers to decorate their blue ribbon. Pin the ribbon to the children.

**BIBLE VERSE GOLD MEDAL:** Provide the children with shiny gold wrapping paper and let each child make a large round circle representing a gold medal. Have the children write today's Bible verse on that medal and then tape it to their shirts or display them around the classroom.

# WORKING TOGETHER TO SERVE OTHERS



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