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(Food for thought)

Gospel: Mark 9: 30-37



Like Little Children

Jesus' mission was always one focusing on people. His call to repentance was much more than just a turning away from sin. It was a call to conversion, a change of mind and heart. He challenges his people to look at the things around themselves differently, to change their thoughts and their images about God, and to see one another differently and act accordingly.

The disciples were too wrapped up in themselves, too concerned about status, glory, their own importance, too interested in "greatness" that they missed the point Jesus worked so hard and so often to make. Maybe they were afraid, or maybe they just didn't think Jesus was serious. So the Lord sits them down, embraces them, and reminds them that the only road to greatness is one of servitude. "If anyone wishes to be first, he must be the last of all and the servant of all."

Jesus will not let us become deaf to the cry of the poor. He will not let us forget. He confronts us and challenges us to open our eyes to the true meaning of the Gospel message.

It is this Risen Lord who lives on in the church, crying out in the name of the poor. It is that same Risen Lord who continues to warn us not to let our hunger for material wealth or status blind and deafen us to the needs of our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Salvation is an exodus experience. It is a movement from being imprisoned to being set free, from darkness to light, from fear to trust, from ignorance to understanding. It is a journey from self-concern to the humility of caring for the little ones, the least of our brothers and sisters. And this has everything to do with the Kingdom of God.



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