

**(Food for thought)**

Gospel: Mark 10: 35-45

*The Best Seating Arrangements*



What do you want me to do for you? Made 10/16

It is very difficult for us to be totally selfless. We are innately self centered. Subconsciously, at least, we are always asking: "What's in it for me?" Religious decisions are no exception. If we deliberately choose to become disciples of Jesus, we, too, like James and John, might ask: "What reward do you promise? Will we become powerful and famous? Can we sit at your right hand?"

Jesus doesn't play those kinds of games. He makes it very clear that, if we choose to follow Him, we are asking to become suffering servants. We will be expected to make ourselves vulnerable and expendable. The only greatness we can expect is to be asked to make great sacrifices through suffering and humiliation.

The mission of Jesus is an invitation to journey with him on a very rough and dangerous road. In today's Gospel, we travel along with Jesus as he is finishing his own journey to Jerusalem. Along the way, he has been teaching his disciples about discipleship. He is close to his entrance into Jerusalem and the disciples still don't get the point. They miss the call to service that discipleship entails. Jesus responds that he has not come to give them the ranking they request. The only thing he can offer is the role of service to others and the consequent suffering such service will involve. The follower of Christ will have to renounce power and drink of the cup of Christ, to be a servant and accept the suffering it entails.

We are totally in God's hands, especially in the suffering that is the consequence of following Christ. In the end, with Jesus, we can trust that God will bring life out of suffering. And we can leave the seating arrangements at the table in the reign of God to God.

