

This Sunday's Gospel, 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mark 10:35-45)

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do 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 to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And 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." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

This is the Gospel of the Lord



Prayer One

The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Reflection:

***This weeks theme is about discipleship,
which means to follow Jesus. But what
does it mean to follow Jesus? It is just
about blindly standing behind somebody
in line? Or is it more special and life-
giving than that?***



Whenever we follow somebody, it suggests that there is a relationship there.

A loving parent, husband or wife, might follow the one they love into a difficult situation so as to be there for them and lend a hand. Similarly, if you are good friends with somebody then you might promise to stand beside them through something difficult, even if it's a little bit inconvenient for you.

We don't follow people because we are forced to. Rather, we follow them because we love them and because when we think it through, we realise that unless we stand beside these people we are denying a part of ourselves. After all, who could really be happy if they knew that they were abandoning a close friend or a parent?

Being disciples of Christ is about recognising that he loves us more than we can imagine, and it's about responding to that by sticking with him. This might mean doing the right thing in a difficult situation, it might mean taking time to pray at the end of a busy day, or it might mean taking time to go to Church at the weekend so that we can be a part of the Christian community around us.

Whatever discipleship means to us though, it is always about standing beside somebody who we know will always stand beside us.

Final Prayer



Loving Father,

Help us to remember that wherever we go and whatever we go through, you will never leave us and you will always be at our side.

May we always act as you would want us to act, may we always take time to turn to you in prayer, and may we always remember your presence in the world around us.

In the name of the Father and of the Son...

Prayer Two

The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Reflection

On Friday we celebrated the Feast of St. Luke. Luke was one of Jesus' earlier followers, and a man whose work would influence many for years to come.



Luke, was a doctor, and early follower of Christ, and a loyal friend to St Paul and an influential author.

Luke wrote one of the four Gospels which was included in the New Testament, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. Together, these two works form one of the best histories that we have of the early Church and of the beginnings of our faith.

For Luke it was important to tell his story, and it was important to be faithful to the things that he had witnessed. This is one of the most important aspects of discipleship.

As Christians, we are asked to remember what God has done for us. We are asked to be faithful in handing it on to others, and we are asked to treasure the amazing stories of Christ.



Final Prayer

Loving Father,

you gave St. Luke the joy of journeying with you and the wisdom to remember and record the events faithfully.

We ask for the grace to notice the things that you do for us, and for the courage to put the things that the Gospels teach us into practice.

In the name of the Father and of the Son...



Prayer Three

The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Reflection

When we hear the word disciple we probably think back to Jesus' earliest followers. These aren't the only disciples by any means, but when we think about these people and their stories, we find some remarkable things.



There is a great saying about God:

'God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called.'



This means that God doesn't look for people who are incredibly strong, good looking, intelligent or well-known. He doesn't want people who are great by human standards. He just wants people with open hearts. Once he has hearts that are open, he can pour his love into those hearts and enable people to do marvellous things. This is how he *qualifies the called*.

The early disciples were a random and diverse bunch: tax collectors, fishermen... Poor, ordinary guys whose only qualification was that they were ready to trust in God.

If faith ever seems daunting to us, all we need to do is to remember the early disciples. They simply had open hearts and the grace to trust in God. And because they did, he allowed them to transform the world around them and to find more joy than in anything else in the world.

Final Prayer

Loving Father,

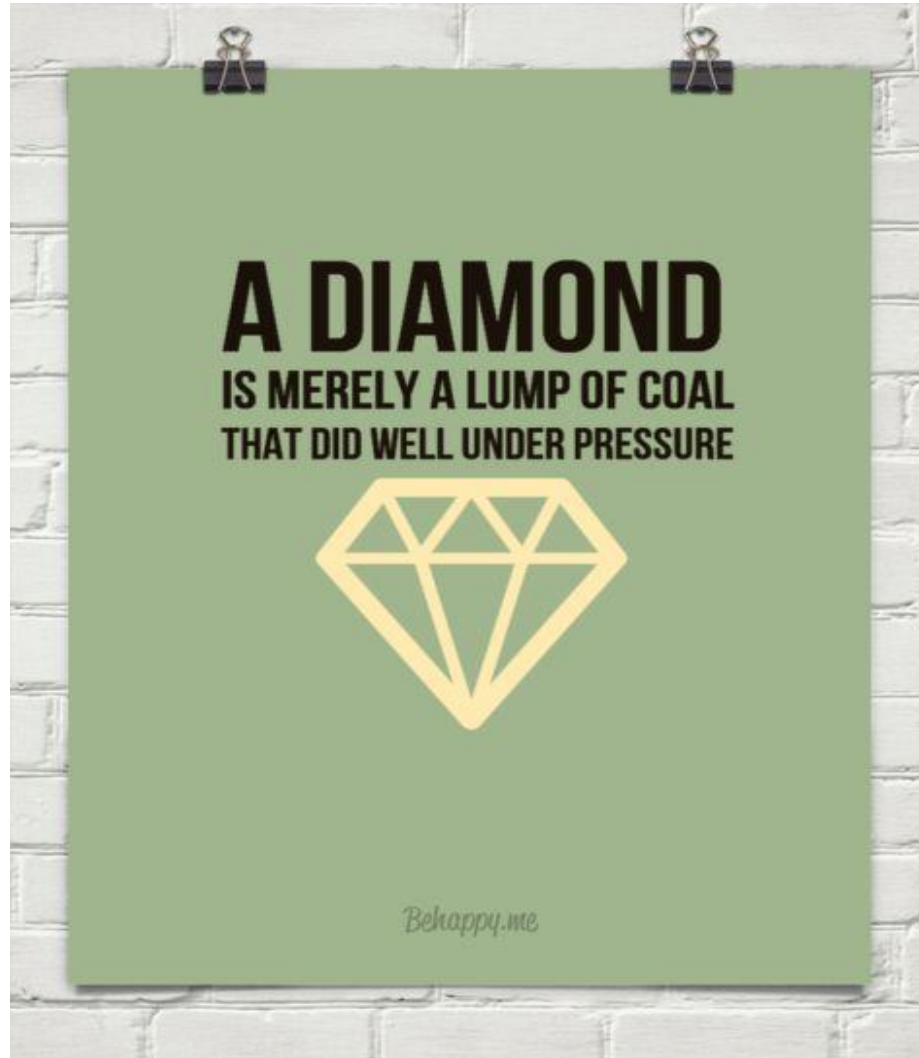
Your power alone can transform our lives and bring us true joy and fulfilment.

All we ask today is for the grace and peace to open our hearts to you.

In the name of the Father and of the Son...



Final Thought...



Next weeks theme (after Half term): Rules