

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, October 21, 2012

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday®, focuses on the Gospel Reading for the coming Sunday. It prepares readers to hear God's Word at Mass and it offers a point of reflection to consider in the days leading to Sunday. Looking to Sunday is written by Father Tom Iwanowski.

SEEKING FAVOR

In this political season many people are doing all they can to get their candidate elected. They are giving money, registering voters, making phone calls, putting up campaign posters, testifying to the virtues of their chosen candidate and extolling his or her positions on critical issues.

They are doing those things because they believe in their candidate. But some people working on campaigns are doing so for additional reasons. They want to share the glory of their candidate's victory and want to benefit from it themselves. They see the possibility of securing a job in a new administration and see the chance of gaining political favors for themselves and their friends.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Mark 10:35-45), two brothers, James and John, foresee future glory for Jesus, their teacher, and they want to be certain that they benefit from it themselves. They ask Jesus, "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left."

When the other ten apostles hear that request they become indignant. Perhaps not because James and John had the audacity to ask such a thing of Jesus, but because those two made their request before the others could.

Jesus replies that sharing in his future victory will not come by asking but rather by following his example of suffering and service. It will come by drinking the cup of suffering that he will drink. It will come by taking his words about service to heart. "Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all."

We share in the glory of Jesus when like him, we serve others. We follow his example of service when we give of our time, our effort, our compassion, our energy, and our money to better the lot of those who are hurting, forgotten, sick, lonely, hungry, abused, powerless, or weak.

Many people seek glory and success by attaching themselves to those destined for greater things. Jesus tells us that we gain true and lasting glory by serving those who cannot repay us, who can do nothing for us. That is something that James and John did not understand, and something many of us have yet to learn.

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