

Small Groups

Discussion Questions for October 18, 2015 – Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

If you look for citations of today's Gospel in Church documents, you will find numerous instances - the Catechism of the Catholic Church, papal audiences, multiple letters, exhortations and encyclicals. Early in the text of the Second Vatican Council document, *Ad Gentes (Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church)*, there is this statement:

“For Jesus Christ was sent into the world as a real mediator between God and men. Since He is God, all divine fullness dwells bodily in Him. According to His human nature, on the other hand, He is the new Adam, made head of a renewed humanity, and full of grace and of truth. Therefore the Son of God walked the ways of a true Incarnation that He might make men sharers in the nature of God: made poor for our sakes, though He had been rich, in order that His poverty might enrich us. The Son of Man came not that He might be served, but that He might be a servant, and give His life as a ransom for the many - that is, for all (cf. Mk 10:45). (Ad gentes 3)

Discussion Questions

1. Read out loud the Gospel and then the quotation above. What is meant by Jesus coming to serve and not to be served? How do we imitate this in our daily routines?
2. Jesus became one of us in order to bridge the gap between man and God. He did this knowing that he would have to pay the ultimate price for us. Why do you think he did this? Discuss what would go through your mind if you were asked to do something similar.
3. In the second reading, the writer of Hebrews tells us to “confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy.” What wondrous words. Discuss your feelings about being able to “confidently”, without doubt, approach God. How beautiful and loving is our God!
4. Use the remaining time to discuss “serving” and how we all can serve right here, right now. Not waiting for a mission trip or Good Samaritan Project, but now, every day.

Closing Prayer

Lord God of Heaven and Earth, hear us. Enable us to form the words we need to say for our own salvation and peace. Let us know that we are the ones who need prayer and worship, not you. Give us that joy that surpasses all understanding. Let us see that the suffering of the world and our suffering is a path to heaven, just as Christ's ultimate servitude won for us the bliss of heaven and eternal friendship with you. Jesus, our brother and guide, help us to always see in the little things we do for others that same service that you gave every day of your life. And please help us to act quickly when any need arises in one of our brothers or sisters. Too often, we think of ourselves first and what we can get from a relationship rather than the need of the other. Enable us to be “other-focused” in all our dealings. We confidently ask for all of this in your name in communion with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.