

Sermon All Age Trinity 20 - 17 Oct 2021 - Mark 10: 35-45, Hebrews 5:1-10

Lord God help us know how each of us can best serve you. Amen

- Ok I need some help out the front please - children , do bring your adults with you too!
- And I definitely need you A as acolyte and you A as powerpoint operator.
- Now then you 2 are really important today in church aren't you- you're doing fantastic jobs - can't do without you, do you agree? You're up at the front. All of you know these 2 are very important young people. To A& A : do you feel important?
- Let's give them a round of applause.
- Perhaps we should give them special seats at the front with their names on to show how important they are, and first go at the biscuits at the end?
- What do you think?
- Not a good idea - why should they get special treatment?
- Hmm...*addressing other children/congregation*- do you think God thinks they are more special than you because they are doing these special jobs?
- Does God think you are special too? Yes he does - He thinks you are special , you are specialand He loves each of you.
- But think back to the story from the gospel we just heard - The 2 disciples in the story -do you remember their names beginning with J? James and John , that's right, well done
- James and John were actually , along with Peter part of Jesus's top team , his inner circle- they were with him at special times when Jesus only took a few disciples with him .Jesus had called them early on to be disciples and had taken them and Peter with him at important events - they went with him when he raised Jairus's daughter from death, they went with him up a mountain at the Transfiguration and heard God calling to him as His Son, but they thought because they had been chosen to do extra jobs for Jesus that meant they could get special treatment in the kingdom of heaven - so they asked if they could sit in the 2 very important places- one at Jesus's right hand and one on his left - wow that was a bit pushy wasn't it?
- Very embarrassing - they judged that all wrong - Jesus politely told them off - to sit at my right hand or left hand in heaven is not my decision (he means it was God's)
- They had just got a bit full of their own self importance
- Just before this conversation Jesus had told them that they were all now on their way to Jerusalem where he was going to be killed but then raised again on the third day. Perhaps they felt full of themselves that they could face whatever Jesus had to face and so he would reward them with the 2 top seats in heaven but they didn't understand how serious it all was.
- Anyway coming back to our church service today.
- Do you think there are other people apart from A and A who have important jobs to do so we can all worship God together today? Let's call them out here now- can you think of what other jobs there are to help us worship in this service today and come together?
- Choir, organist- you don't normally see P do you- hidden away! , coffee maker, coffee server, video guy, sidespeople, music group, reader- look at that: R who did the reading is also in the choir- do you think God thinks he's extra special because he's got 2 jobs? NO ! and there's even Father Andrew and me! And everyone is special . God loves everyone.
- Now then please get in a line - tallest first near the altar going down to smallest –
- Wow look at this _ R who already has 2 jobs is the tallest as well! He's got 3 points now to make him special! Do you think God finds R most special because he's the tallest? NO!
- *Move to smallest person*, God thinks you are special, and you , and you....(*move up the line*)
- Now let's get in a line with people wearing something blue nearest the altar (*me with blue scarf!*)
- Does that mean that God thinks I am the most important person here because I am wearing a bright blue scarf ? NO! That would be silly wouldn't it!

- It doesn't matter what sort of clothes you wear - like we heard at Harvest (lilies of the field reading)
- God wants to know what your heart is like, whether you want to be like Jesus and be kind and generous and love your neighbour and not be selfish and think you are better than everyone else and think you deserve a high place in heaven.
- God gives us all different gifts and different ways to serve Him to build up His Kingdom here on earth.
- Some people might just want to follow Jesus when it's easy and everyone says "Well done you've done really well today being an acolyte , doing the powerpoint , serving the coffee" but the tricky bit about being a Christian is sticking with trying to follow Jesus when it's really hard in your life.
- But do you know what? **That's** the time when it really makes a difference and can really help us. If we can let God in and say a prayer and trust him and tell him how hard things are and we really need his help, we can find an inner strength, a direction, his Holy Spirit growing in our lives, because he loves us so much he wants to help us if only we let Him.
- If we can trust that God still loves us and forgives us when we mess up and we say sorry and want to start again, we can become much stronger and show more love to each other and actually to ourselves.
- The bible tells us to love our neighbour as ourselves, but loving ourselves doesn't mean boasting or wanting everyone to tell us how great we are and how clever we are and what good Christians we are.
- It actually means listening to God to see how we can each serve Him best, and sometimes also realising that to serve Him means looking after ourselves - if we are tired, we are allowed to rest; if we are sad we are allowed to cry; if we are angry and upset, we are allowed to tell God in our prayers and also someone we trust, rather than keep it bottled up.
- God loves us more than we can imagine. Jesus shows us just how much God loves us . God sent His only Son to be born amongst us - live on earth and to die on the cross an innocent man, taking our sins upon him and then God raised him to new life - bursting open the gates of heaven for all who believe in Jesus as the Son of God and giving us eternal life.
- God loved us first , we don't have to earn God's love , we just have to respond to it and let His Holy Spirit transform us little by little.
- If I try and let God rule my heart and mind, if I love God and love my neighbour because I love God, and try to follow Jesus, I won't worry so much about who is the greatest or whether God will like you more than me because that's not how God works - God loves each of us.
- So this week let's ask Jesus to help us be humble, joyful servants of God and work together to bring in more of God's kingdom on earth now and in the future because God will always love us.... each one of usand wants more than anything for us to respond to His love and His values in how we live our lives.
- In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Amen

Mark 10:35-45

35 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.' 36 And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' 37 And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' 38 But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' 39 They replied, 'We are able.' Then 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; 40 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.' 41 When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. 42 So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 43 But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

Hebrews 5:1-10

5 Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; 3 and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. 4 And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

5 So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

'You are my Son,

today I have begotten you';

6 as he says also in another place,

'You are a priest for ever,

according to the order of Melchizedek.'

7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus[a] offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; 9 and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, 10 having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.