



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE B

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This prediction of the passion reveals Jesus as the suffering servant, so Mark links it to the incident with the child. The disciples had been arguing about their status, so Jesus calls them to imitate him and be servants. A child, who is largely helpless and with-out status in society, represents Jesus, who in turn represents the Father who sent him. Welcoming the representative is a way of welcoming the one who sent him.

The varying thrusts of the words of Jesus shape the emphases in this passage. The prediction of the passion is a rather solemn statement of the threats ahead. His question about their argument is probing and challenging. His words about servanthood are exhortative, maybe even pleading. The final sentence is tender as he encourages them to welcome the little ones.

After leaving the mountain
Jesus and his disciples went on from there
and passed through Galilee.
He did not want anyone to know it;
for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them,
"The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands,
and they will kill him,
and three days after being killed, he will rise again."
But they did not understand what he was saying
and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum;
and when he was in the house Jesus asked them,
"What were you arguing about on the way?"
But they were silent,
for on the way they had argued with one another
who was the greatest.

Jesus sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,
"Whoever wants to be first
must be last of all and servant of all."

Then he took a little child and put it among them;
and taking it in his arms, he said to them,
"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever
welcomes me
welcomes not me but the one who sent me."