Sunday, September 19, 2021

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

**SUNDAY’S READINGS:** Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; James 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37

**SUNDAY’S GOSPEL:**

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, “The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.”  But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me;  
and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.”

**QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION IN PREPARATION FOR SUNDAY**

1. Describe a time when you found yourself making comparisons between someone else and you. Did you think that you were better or worse than the person you were comparing yourself to? How did it make you feel when you sensed you were superior or inferior to that other person? Looking back in hindsight, what do you think led you to start making the comparisons in the first place? How did you view the other person after making the comparisons? How did you view yourself? Did making the comparison make you any better or worse at the thing you were comparing? How did making the comparison affect your relationship with that other person?
2. In the spiritual life, what standard do you use to measure where you are at? Do you ever catch yourself saying or thinking, “Well, at least I don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”? Describe a time you decided not to do some good deed or not to spend some time in prayer, etc., because you thought, “Hey, I’m already doing way more than the average person.” What are some ways you find yourself even making comparisons to other family members? How do you see things differently when you compare whatever you are doing to what Jesus has done for you, instead of comparing to other people?
3. Jesus’ words really counter this comparison mindset, especially when He said, “If anyone wishes to be first he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” What are some ways that you have lived this within the family – how does putting yourself at the service of others help you to overcome the desire to make comparisons? What are some ways we can help one another in the family overcome any sorts of feelings of superiority or inferiority?
4. Jesus putting His arms around the child shows the need to for us to reach out to others without any considerations of them “deserving it”. What are some ways that you’ve made judgments about how much other family members “deserve” things that you do for them? Describe some times that you benefitted from other family members doing things for you when you didn’t “deserve” it. How did their serving you impact you? Describe a time you served someone else who might not have “deserved”. Why did you do it; how did serving them impact you and them?