



You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

First Reading: (Isa 53:10-11) It was the will of the Lord to bruise him; he has put him to grief; when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand; he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous; and he shall bear their iniquities.

Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22

R./ May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Second Reading: (Heb 4:14-16) Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the

throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Gospel: (Mk 10:35-45) James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And 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; 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." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that





To Serve, and not to be Served

Mark 10:35-45

those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your

servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

REFLECTION

All the three readings of today present before us what God values and desires. God wishes that humans recognize these values and find meaning in their lives. God's power is revealed in powerlessness. However, most people think that power, positions and possessions give them recognition, security, peace and happiness. God has another logic which is meaningful only to those who accept God as the sovereign Master of their lives. This is what we find in Jesus' response to James and John **that it is not seeking positions of power that would make their lives meaningful but giving of themselves to others till it costs them even their own lives.**

God lets his beloved servant suffer for the sake of others. However, God does not abandon the suffering servant. He rewards him/her. The suffering servant is a pre-figuration of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Though he was God he emptied himself and became human. Only when we empty ourselves we are filled with God's presence and only by self-giving we are given the grace of discovering our true self in God!