

## Who is the greatest?

In Mark's gospel we hear James and John ask Jesus "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus responds by defining what greatness in God's kingdom means. He tells them: *whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.* Mark 10:42 - 45

Our reading this morning invites us to reflect on what it means to truly follow Jesus. Contrary to public opinion, the greatest person is not the rich or famous or powerful among us, because in God's kingdom the greatest person is the one who serves others - whose life is focused on loving God and loving others.

James and John wanted the highest positions in Jesus' kingdom, and as such the disciples showed that they were still focused on themselves and what they could get out of this relationship with Jesus, rather than keeping their eyes on God and following his lead of service. But Jesus told them that true greatness comes in serving others.

Often those who have desires to be great, want to exercise power and control over others.

But not so in God's kingdom, where the values of our world are turned upside down, or maybe I should say, that the values we are to live by are turned the right way up in Jesus.

Jesus, the Son of the most High God, came as a servant amongst us, and indeed gave his life so that we may live. And because he came as a servant, he expects his disciples to do the same.

So, the question for us to ponder this week is:  
Are we prepared to serve God wherever he leads us?