

Homily ~OT XXV [B] Sunday (Sept 22)

Today, we are invited to reflect on what it truly means to be great in the eyes of God. As we delve into the scriptures, we see that true greatness is not measured by power or status but through humble service and a surrender to God's will. Let us open our hearts to embrace the selflessness and humility exemplified by Jesus.

In the first reading from the Book of Wisdom, we are presented with a vision of the "Suffering Servant," who endures suffering for the sake of righteousness. This foreshadows Christ's own passion and challenges us to remain steadfast in our pursuit of righteousness, even when it leads to suffering.

The Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 54) is a heartfelt plea for divine help against those who oppose the just. It reflects the struggles of those who seek to live a righteous life amidst adversity.

In the second reading, St. James addresses disputes among the apostles who are concerned with questions of greatness and status. James warns that selfish ambitions lead to conflict and discord, urging us to embrace humility and service as the path to true peace.

In today's Gospel Jesus offers a profound lesson on greatness. He teaches that true greatness in the Kingdom of God is not about positions of power or prestige but about serving and welcoming the most vulnerable - children, the poor, the mentally ill, and the marginalized. By embodying child-like humility and selfless service, we align ourselves with God's vision of greatness.

Jesus redefines greatness through humble service. To be truly great, we are called to:

- Put ourselves last: By setting aside our own desires for the benefit of others.
- Be the servant of all: By seeking opportunities to serve, especially those who are often overlooked.
- Welcome the insignificant with love: By embracing those whom society might dismiss.
- Expect nothing in return: By offering our service out of love and generosity, without seeking accolades.

Jesus invites us to learn from His meekness and humility. Practicing Humility in Thoughts, Words, and Actions:

St. Augustine reminds us that humility is the cornerstone of Christian living. True humility means not seeking recognition or reward but acting out of genuine love and service.

Our faith and humility go hand in hand, enriching each other. As we engage in works of mercy, let us remember the words of St. Basil: "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life". Just as we are called to protect and care for others, let us approach everyone with respect and love.

Today's readings challenge us to rethink our understanding of greatness and to embrace a life of humility and service. As we reflect on these teachings, let us commit ourselves to following Jesus' example - welcoming and serving others with a pure heart.

In our daily lives, let us strive to embody these qualities. As we gather for Holy Mass, let us pray for the spirit of service and love for those around us. May the Holy Spirit guide us in embracing this path of humble greatness. Let us pray for the strength and wisdom to become true servants of God, reflecting His love in all that we do.