

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A man once told me about a time he was in a meeting with one of the wealthiest businessmen in our state. When the man had an opportunity to present a business proposal to the executive, the executive displayed his impatience and dismissed the man with an abrupt wave of his hand. As the man left the office, he courageously said, "May I suggest, sir, that you need a little bit of humility." To which the arrogant businessman replied, "You know, you're exactly right." And turning to an assistant he said, "Remind me to hire someone who has some humility."

Dear Friends,

The desire to be the greatest often stems from a variety of human motivations, such as the need for recognition, self-fulfillment, and a sense of accomplishment. Not everyone feels the need to be the greatest, but for those who do, it's often a combination of internal desires and external pressures.

Today's readings talk about true greatness is found in humility and service. This message challenges our human instincts for power, success, and recognition. It invites us to rethink our understanding of greatness in light of Jesus' example.

The Gospel begins with Jesus telling His disciples about His impending suffering, death, and resurrection. However, they don't understand and are too afraid to ask. Instead of pondering the gravity of what Jesus was saying, they begin to argue among themselves about who is the greatest.

This moment reveals how much the disciples, like many of us, were concerned with their status, their position in the community, and how they were perceived. Even after journeying with Jesus for so long, they still struggled with ambition, pride, and competition.

We live in a society that often measures success by wealth, achievements, titles, and influence. Social media platforms are filled with the pursuit of "likes," followers, and popularity. There's constant pressure to stand out, to be noticed, and to be the best. This desire for greatness isn't new; it's deeply rooted in our human nature. But Jesus teaches us that real greatness lies in humility, in making ourselves small, and in lifting others up.

Humility is not about thinking less of ourselves but thinking of ourselves less. It's about recognizing that all we have is a gift from God, and that our talents and abilities are meant to serve others. We all know that Mother Teresa is a beautiful example of this kind of humility. She spent her life serving the poorest of the poor.

Here is another example that struck me - a doctor in our state in India, who charged only 20 rupees to his patients for twenty years which is equal to 25 cents per patient. His prescription never exceeded more than 50 rupees, which is 75 cents. When he died, thousands of people came to his funeral. His granddaughter said at a press conference. He never earned much for the family. but he earned these many loving people by his service. We are so proud of him and he left that legacy for us.

How can we show our humility in our own places? It can be as simple as showing kindness to a stranger, listening to someone in need, or being patient with those who frustrate us. True service often goes unnoticed by the world, but it is always seen by God.

This week, let us reflect on areas of our lives where we can serve others more selflessly. How can we put the needs of others before our own, especially those who are often overlooked or marginalized? By doing so, we follow the path of true greatness—the path of Christ.