

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

September 19, 2021 • 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Mark 9:30–37

## The Last Shall Be First

*As Jesus travels with his disciples, he hears them arguing among themselves. When he discovers that they are arguing about which of them is the greatest, Jesus reminds them that those who will be the greatest or the first, will be those who were servants to all and vulnerable like small children.*

Jesus is frustrated with his apostles. He is trying to talk to them about important things and they are concerned about who of them is the greatest. They want to know who is first in Jesus' eyes. Jesus responds to them by telling them he measures a person's greatness by how much concern they have for others— especially their concern over those who are considered unimportant.

Sounds like a family story to me. I think the words, "Me, me, me" or "Me first," must resound at some time or another in every family kitchen and backyard in America. The world could stop revolving around the sun and the stars could fall from the heavens and some youngster somewhere would be upset that they are not the center of attention.

This is what being a child is like. The littler they are the more dependent they are on others, and the more they need to make sure they are not forgotten. Sometimes it seems that little ones need to be constantly recognized—constantly reassured they are first in your life. As parents, we are expected to patiently answer our toddler's "Me, me, me" with a reassuring smile and pat. Gradually and gently, as they grow older, we begin to teach them to put

others, younger, more vulnerable than themselves, first.

In this Gospel Jesus tells us, "Whoever welcomes one child such as this in my name welcomes me." This is good to remember when traveling in a car for several hours with more than one preschooler screaming, "Me," "Mine" or "Me first."

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Ask each family member to name one thing they like best about each of the other family members. If your family is small name two things. You are not allowed to repeat what someone else has said.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

In the space below write down what you like most about each of the people in your family. Write down what you like best about yourself. What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?