

October 17, 2021

Mark 10:35-45

Great Service
Children's Sabbath/Laity Sunday

Dear Brother Jesus,

We follow you as closely as we can. We listen as carefully as we are able. We believe that we understand what you are asking of us.

But here's what's still hard, Jesus. Even though we pay attention, even though we pray, we still want to know who is first and who is last, we still want to know who is in and who is out, we still want to know who is important and who is unimportant.

We follow. We listen. We believe.

It's funny because, of course we'd like it to be we who are first. And in. And important. But more even than being the exalted ones, we want to know who the exalted ones are. We want to follow you, but we are both excited and comforted by the world's hierarchy. It's a relief to know, even if we cannot be the best, that somewhere there is a best.

But then, we follow. We listen. We believe.

Jesus, all the ways you speak in parable and mystery, of all the water-into-wine and walk-on-water miracles you perform, of all the healing, of all the times that people sat down with you and got up with their hunger fed, their thirst quenched, this is the hardest to understand.

But this is the truth of what you proclaim. There is no in or out. There is no first or last. There is no worthy or unworthy. There is just a big circle of love and abundance, in which all are welcome, and all are equal. All are beloved and all are accepted. All are needed and all are held.

Jesus, we follow. We listen. We believe. Help us, as we honor children today, as we celebrate the gifts of all of your ministers, ordained or not. Help us to live as we see, as we hear, as we believe.

In your many strong names we pray, Amen.



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