

## A WEEKLY WORD

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### Readings for the week of October 20, 2024

Isaiah 53:4-12 and Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

All the readings for this week are favorites of mine, so it was hard to pick one thought. Right from the story of the suffering servant in Isaiah, the promises in the psalm, the assurance of the royal priesthood in Hebrews and then on to the reminder from Jesus that

**whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."**

We are human, we like to be up front and in the important place to be seen and known by all. But Jesus tells us that we must be the least among our peers, we must take the place in the back of the hall.

I am a short person and I do not like being put in the back of the hall. Just ask my kids – when I went to their concerts, and still today when I go to my grandkids concerts, I want to be in front. What's the point of going if I can't see? This is why I relate to Zaccheus. He climbed a tree. I get that. I love being in the front row so that my grandkids can see Nanny there watching them. I want them to feel important. So I spend a lot of time standing on the sidelines at events.

However a lot of us when we go to church tend to sit in the back. We don't want to be on camera, or seen in case we are asked a question at the teaching time.

James and John asked to sit on Jesus' right hand and left hand when He comes into His Glory. They didn't understand that in order for Jesus to come into His Glory he had to be crucified. We can look back and see what happened in hindsight, but they had no such privilege. They thought Jesus's kingdom was coming in their present time, in Jerusalem, They were part of the inner circle and figured they were entitled to this position of honour.

Doesn't that sound like us?

When Jesus says we must be slave of all, he means we must serve as His hands and feet in service to our fellow man. If you serve in a soup kitchen, you understand what that means. Food Banks are empty these days because there is such a need out there. The economy is in a sad state of affairs. People who are working can't make ends meet. There are people going to the food bank who used to support the food bank. Now they are the ones in need. Why is it that 80% of the world hold 20% of the wealth and vice versa. 20% of this world seems like a small portion of the people, but 80% of the wealth seems like a lot. There are whole populations who are starving, and in places like Canada and the USA which are considered wealthy countries, there are children hungry.

In this season of Thanksgiving, looking toward the Christmas season, let us do without a want so that someone else can have what they need.

*Psalm 91:14-15 Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them.*