

Gospel 19th September 2021. Cycle B  
Sunday 25th Week of the Ordinary Time

## **IF ANYONE WISHES TO BE FIRST,**



**SHALL BE THE LAST**

### **AMBIENCE**

To welcome the small, the simple things is to welcome You. I feel in your presence, celebrating the life that is given to me every day.

I want to be like the lilies of the field, like the fish of the sea, like the birds of the sky that always have enough what they need to live..., because they are happy with whatever natural life may offer them.

I am when I open myself, I allow myself to be fashioned, when I am myself.

In this sonorous silence, I silence my haste, my needs, my impulses and let the stillness of God's Presence invade and inhabit everything.

**SONG. THE SERVANT KING – Graham Kendrick**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCAAdWs-ZyEk>

## **GOSPEL - Mark 9, 30 - 37**

"Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him. They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

### **Deepening the text**

St. Mark tells us: "The disciples did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question Jesus." We can understand them! And, however, is not the first time Jesus announces such events; since the preceding chapter, of the Gospel of Mark, after the famous profession of faith of Peter in Caesarea, Jesus already said the same; But it remains unclear! It is even incredible, shocking, contradictory for the Disciples.

Why? Because is totally contrary to the idea they have about God and totally contrary to the idea they have about the Son of Man. In the heads of the disciples, as in that of their contemporaries (and it may also be ours), the glory and the cross doesn't match well!

Other contradiction: In a first moment, Jesus is going to be handed over, executed, reduced to the state of passive object of men's hatred. Jesus, who must put himself at the head of humanity, will be treated as the waste of it! And, only later on, in a second moment, He will be risen and will triumph. The last will be the first. Not only the glory and the cross are inseparable, but it seems that the glory goes through the cross. It is what is said: the world upside down. No wonder the disciples are not spontaneously keeping up with the tuning fork!

Finally, Jesus gives an example that is easy to understand to everyone: **taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me” ...**: It seems that He wants to remind the famous parable of the Last Judgment from the Gospel of Matthew: « Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me ». And **Jesus specifies: “If you have done it in my name”**. Probably, the secret of the true greatness in the eyes of God are not the actions, mainly those ones which are great but the fact of doing them in Jesus Christ’s name. Here there is good news that, besides **everybody can achieve it**.

### **Keys for prayer**

1. Jesus and the disciples were moving, where and for what do you need to move?
2. I keep meditating on the way I conceive the messianism of Jesus, Is the experience of the cross included?
3. How do I integrate the cross in the glory? What does this invite me to in my life?

## **THE LORD HOLDS YOUR LIFE**\_\_\_\_\_

### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

#### **ARANJUEZ CONCERT – Joaquín Rodrigo**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzEFQW9CXGc>

### **THE LAST, WILL BE THE FIRST**

Being the first or the last,  
The question is to be.  
Planning the life as a road  
that is walked by different people  
who search for moments, instants,  
silences and words,  
that may describe situations, histories, lives...  
Your Word Lord, opens us to life,

enlightens events, circumstances,  
helps us to objectify stories  
and launches us to talk dreams.  
Being great, You choose to be small.  
Being wise, You choose to be humble.  
Being free, You choose to carry the cross.  
Being for everyone, there are some who do not recognize You.  
Being the Word, at times you choose the silence.  
Having everything, You choose give up everything.  
Being the Teacher, You are also the disciple.  
Being strong, you choose the weak in this world.  
Being God, you are also man.  
You live, with us, in us, with everyone.  
With the lucidity of a prophet, you patiently follow the path,  
always going up to Jerusalem.  
You teach us to choose the vulnerability,  
The small, the simple, the innocent ones.  
You launch us to enhance life,  
the different, the diverse  
and to gestate listening and eloquent talks.  
Be wise who listen, meditate,  
contemplate, welcome and empower.  
Walk in God's presence  
that inspires confident answers.  
Walk being presence,  
Be like children, serve out of love...  
The last will be the first,  
The small will be great  
And the silence will have a word.  
We are with YOU.

## **YOU RAISE ME UP – Josh Groban**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRcIEMgppK8>



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