



## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 7, 2018

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### GOSPEL MARK 10:2-16

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The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked,  
"Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?"

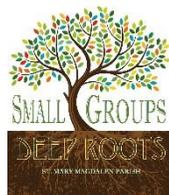
They were testing him. He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her."

But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate."

In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."

Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them. In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."



**October 7, 2018**

**GOSPEL MARK 10:2-16**

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In today's Gospel Jesus teaches us about the sacredness of marriage; a covenant that is a gift from God. Our relationships with our spouses, family, friends, coworkers, and those in our community of faith are all gifts from God. Jesus reminds us that it is the hardened heart that damages or breaks up relationships.

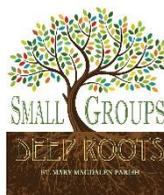
**What does hardness of heart mean to you?**

**When have you experienced this in yourself? When have you experienced this in others?**

It seems nearly impossible to stay together in marriage through thick and thin in our day and age. "Jesus does not exhort the assembly to "suck it up" or learn to work hard at one's marriage. Rather, he calls them to conversion: "Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it" (Mk 10:15). In order to restore the original communion of creation, man and woman must become like children. They must not rely on their own merits to stay married but adopt a childlike disposition, to receive all as gift. Living up to the high standards of marriage in the kingdom of God is not a matter of pursuing a steeled virtue. Instead, it requires a life of prayer, a posture of receptivity whereby man and woman receive infinite love from God. One can only give, after all, what one has first received. (excerpt from Our Sunday Visitor, October 7-15, 2018, p14A)

**How can I develop a life of prayer and a posture of receptivity to God so as to be live as a better husband/wife?**

**What marriages do we need to pray for together as a group?**





## 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 14, 2018

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### GOSPEL MARK 10:17-30

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As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: *You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.*"

He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

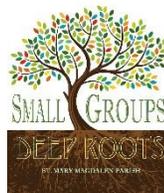
Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

The disciples were amazed at his words.

So Jesus again said to them in reply, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

**They were exceedingly astonished** and said among themselves, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God."

Peter began to say to him, "We have given up everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come."



October 14, 2018

GOSPEL MARK 10:17-30

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This Gospel passage starts out with “As Jesus was setting out on a journey....” **Have you ever thought where he was going?**

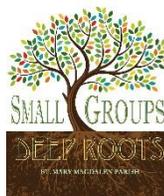
We may balk at the rich young man’s response to Jesus’ invitation to come follow him. “At this statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.” It is easy to think, “I would never put possessions in front of my relationship to Jesus.”

But is that true? One way to gauge how attached to our possessions is how we react when we don’t get what we want. **How do we react when we misplace something? How do we react when something is broken or mishandled? What do we say “I just have to have that \_\_\_\_\_ ...”**

**Are we truly detached from our possessions? How can you be a better steward of your possessions?**

Peter says, “Lord we have given up everything to follow you.” **What have you “given up” to follow Jesus?**

Jesus promises that anything we have given up for him will be richly rewarded. **Do we truly believe that? Share a time when you have experienced a greater reward than what you gave up.**





## 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 21, 2018

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### GOSPEL MARK 10:35-45

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James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

He replied, "What do you wish me to do for you?"

They answered him, "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left."

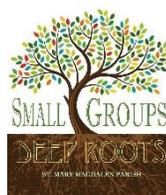
Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

They said to him, "We can."

Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John.

Jesus summoned them and said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."



October 21, 2018

GOSPEL MARK 10:35-45

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Have you ever come to Jesus and asked him, “Teacher, I want you to do for me whatever I ask of you.” That’s quite a bold statement. That’s quite an interesting start to a prayer. Yet that is exactly how the two apostles, James and John approach Jesus.

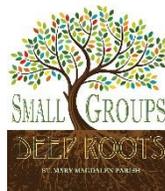
**Does anything strike you about how they approach Jesus and make their request? Have you approached Jesus the same way?**

Judging from that start, you can already begin to see, James and John need a little more training in Christian prayer and leaving behind their selfish ambitions. OneThey will both die as saints; but they have a long way to go.

Jesus uses this moment to teach them something invaluable about the Kingdom of God and his mission. Jesus says, “...great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you.” Jesus’s mission is one to serve.

**When have I had the opportunity to make my authority felt, but rather served others?**

**How did it turn out?**



## 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 28, 2018



### GOSPEL MARK 10:46-52

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging.

On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."

And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me."

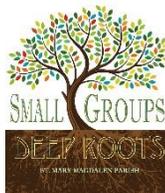
Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you."

He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.

Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see."

Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.



October 28, 2018

GOSPEL MARK 10:46-52

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What strikes you about this passage?

Why would the disciples rebuke blind Bartimeus? Should not he be able to go to Jesus precisely because he is blind?

Jesus asks the disciples to “call him.” Why do you think Jesus did that? Why did Jesus not just go to Bartimeus himself?

Blindness is often used in the gospels to symbolize lack of faith. When we cannot see God’s beauty, God’s working in our lives, we are often spiritually blind. In what area of my life am I blinded? **Where do I need to cry out to Jesus, “I want to see!”** **What relationships do I NOT see through God’s eyes?** **What behaviors and habits do I fall into where I don’t believe God is there.**

Jesus says Bartimeus is cured because of his faith. **Where do I need to trust more?** Even though it may seem like God is delaying, in reality he is not. His timing is always perfect. Let’s prayer for one another’s needs and say to God, “Lord I want to see. Help me to trust you when I don’t see.”

