



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle A-XXXI Sunday in Ordinary Time

Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10; Psalm 131:1,2,3; 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13; Matthew 23:1-12

The Greatest must be your Servant.

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Reflection

Jesus speaks of the scribes and the Pharisees. Who were they? The scribes were experts in the law of Moses, but they derived many additional laws that were difficult to follow. The Pharisees were leaders of the Jewish people that spoke of the importance of following the laws, but did not do so themselves. They did not recognize Jesus as God because they lacked love. **What does Jesus say about them?** They say one thing and do another. **Jesus says they tie up heavy burdens on the people's shoulders. What is He referring to?** They require the people to follow more than 600 laws, yet do not follow them themselves. **Why does Jesus say they do this?** They love power; they like the places of honor at the banquets, seats of honor in the synagogues...being called Rabbi or teacher. **In Jesus' eyes, who is the greatest?** The servant. **Jesus says that whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.**



What did He mean? How can we serve God and others? Share.

Activity

On the following page, color and fill in the blanks. On the last page, choose who is serving God in the pictures.

Prayer

Jesus, I always want to follow you. Help me to be humble. Help me to imitate you serving God and my neighbor thus helping to build your Kingdom. I love you. Amen.

Songs: Make me a Servant, The Asidors, https://youtu.be/zw_FNbF1LrU?si=5X-oqZhEXxTLbkc4 (3-7 yrs.)

The Servant Song, servantofthelion, <https://youtu.be/kdmgpMfnjdU?si=utkB1M6Cv6oahiwX> (8+ yrs.)

PPT: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1IDIHdnWBdssGJXgXqi7K1eb1-iVVzs7m/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtpof=true&sd=true



Cycle A

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time-Matthew 23:1-12



Fill in the blanks with the words on the list.



Whoever _____
himself will be
humbled; but whoever
_____ himself _____
be _____."

List of Words:

Will
Exalted
Exalts
Humbles



WHO IS SERVING OTHERS?

