

E-DEVOTION FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 4

As I am going with you through these days of Lent, it is so interesting to read through all the things that happened with Jesus and the disciples on the way to the cross. He knew where he was going - I'm not so sure very many of them had a clue.

I like the story of James and John as it is told in Mark. Years ago we had friends who had twin sons who they named James and John. Whenever I think about those boys, I think of the story in Mark.

Jesus had been telling the disciples what was about to happen. As they listened, James and John asked Jesus if they could be the ones who would sit on his right and on his left as he came into the kingdom. I remember those boys I knew years ago... it seemed like they were true to their names and were always pressuring their dad about who was the favorite. They were good kids, but they knew how to 'press their dad's buttons.'

Jesus listens to the two and then he tells them, in no uncertain terms, that it's just not his call. Read on in Mark and you will get to the part where he says... *"If one of you wants to be great, he must be the servant of the rest, he must be the slave to all... for even the Son of Man did not come to be served, He came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people."*

Isn't this a good reminder as we continue our way to the cross? It's all about servanthood... giving up for the good of all. We really don't need to be the 'favorite' one. We don't even need the 'first place' at the table. Jesus reminds us repeatedly, that we are to be servants. A servant church. Seeking out where we can do more for others.

It's a Lenten theme. Not so much about the royalty, the throne, the crown... but about the cross, the wreath of thorns, the sacrifice. We'll get to the "Alleluias!", the "Crown Him with Many Crowns" ... but first we need to walk the walk step by step. Making our way just as he did.

Remember to keep washing your hands, fold them, study your thumbs in the shape of that cross, bow your heads and make room in your heart for the serving Christ. And please wear a mask... for all of us.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, so often we worry about where our place at the table is. And then we hear your words of being a slave to all. Open our hearts and our minds to not be so critical of one another. Help us walk the walk... step by step. Amen, In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Pastor Ken Nyhusmoen