

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
September 23, 2018
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 2:12, 17-20 † James 3:16—4:3 † Mark 9:30-37



Reflection by: Sister Patricia Crowley, OP

Mark's style is simple and unpolished. Repetition is used to catch the significance of what he is saying, sharing the "good news" of what God has done in and through Jesus.

Jesus moves through Galilee, but his public ministry there is over. He is teaching his disciples the meaning of his own calling and of theirs. The simple paradox: Jesus, who should be exercising authority over others, is delivered into their hands.

The first reading, Wisdom, is dark and serious. It gives us an inside view of the way in which our scheming minds work. "So he thinks he is so good. He accuses us of breaking the law. Let us put him to the test. Mock him, torture him, and claim we have been deceived. No need for all this God stuff. We base our lives on what is real!" If God does not have the first place and we judge everything else in relation to this thinking, we cannot win.

The Gospel has the disciples arguing about who is first and the greatest. It resembles the first reading. Jesus has shared what is most important in his life and they, like children, are fighting over first place! He places a child in their midst. Children love their parents, but if they feel helpless, they become grabby so as to survive. When they do express love, it is done with all their hearts.

Jesus tells his Father, "I give over all that I am. I love the world and everything that is in it. Therefore, I love each of you with the fullness, warmth and generosity of God's love."