

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

October 17, 2021

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 53:10–11 † Hebrews 4:14–16 † Mark 10:35–45

Reflection by: Sister Barbara Moore, OP

On the Way to "Getting It"

Mark, in today's passages, writes of a **third time** where Jesus attempts to share with his friends the future events that would lead to his death. His apostles are on their way with Jesus to Jerusalem where all this would take place. Jesus is again telling them that he would suffer at the hands of the chief priests and be condemned to death. He would also rise. It is beyond their ability to fully comprehend the somber impact of his words. They just do not "get it." I can relate to that. Can you?

Mark introduces us to James and John and their attempt to make sense of Jesus' hard words. James and John seem not to be able to move beyond themselves. Seems their thoughts at this point are on "kingdom," self-preservation for sure. With presumption and arrogance they rudely demand of Jesus a favor: "...do for us what we ask of you!...Grant for us in your glory that we may sit one at your right and one at your left in the Kingdom." They miss completely the deeper sharing of what is to come. It comes to them from the very heavy heart of Jesus. Their friend is facing death. They ask for a favor...

Our lives are taken up with our every day. It takes time, concentration to delve deeper into the more serious side of life of which we may well be unaware. So I can forgive James and John for being lost in themselves. I can relate to them in that there is so much that I (we?) just do not "get." In our humanness we work at life's gradual unfolding. The reality of change that we face today is beyond our comprehension and imagination. Their very existence is too numerous to mention.

As I pondered this reflection, one major change did come to my mind: the fragility of life on our planet. In 2006 you may remember the universal, controversial but popular movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*, inspired by Al Gore. Whatever our comprehension was in 2006, reality has had its impact. It's not about me, but rather about we. So, like James and John, in so many ways we as a human community did not "get it." Hopefully, as they eventually and shockingly did, now gradually will we. Our hope is that we are not on our way to a Jerusalem but to a brand new reality of thinking, appreciating, loving, being, doing and rejoicing.

