

FEBRUARY 25, 2020  
Tuesday of the 7<sup>th</sup> Week in OT  
Mark 9: 30-37

TO BE GREAT IS TO BE THE LEAST

It is nice that our gospel for today talks about who is the greatest in the Kingdom of God, a day before the Ash Wednesday. When Jesus Christ asked His disciples, what were they discussing about, they were silent and “ashamed” because they were talking about greatness and selfishness and not service. For Jesus and this will be His reminder to us, to be great is to be humble, to be of service to others and to be the least. Greatness is not to be first, to be the most beautiful, to be smartest but rather to think of others first and ourselves last, to be a servant rather than seeking to be served. And Jesus Christ is the perfect example of this: “Just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”<sup>1</sup>

Let us ask the Lord in this Eucharist that we must always remember that to be great means we have the willingness to be the least among our brothers and sisters, serve the poor and the neglected, and be humble in everything we do everyday. The gospel is teaching us today if we want to be the greatest, be humble and be a servant of all.

We also called today, a day before Ash Wednesday “Mardi Gras means Fat Tuesday. For Christians, Mardi Gras is the last day to indulge before Ash Wednesday, which starts the sober weeks of fasting that come with Lent. Mardi Gras was formally known as Shrove Tuesday. The word shrove comes from shrive, meaning the confessions of sins - something done in preparation for Lent. The official colors for Mardi Gras are purple, green and gold. In 1872 Rex, the King of Carnival, chose these colors to stand for the following: Purple stands for justice, green for faith, and gold for power. The word

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 20: 28 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

carnival comes from the Latin words meaning farewell to meat."<sup>2</sup> So, let us remind ourselves of the importance of Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent, that is, being one with the Lord in His suffering and death so that we can be one with Him in His resurrection. We can follow the Lord only when we are humble and willing to serve all. If we want to be great, serve!

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<sup>2</sup> [www.catholicsermons.com](http://www.catholicsermons.com)