

Fr. O'Connor's Homily October 21, 2018

Can you recall a time in your life when somebody made a fool out of you? Would you like to talk about it? Probably not. We really dislike this kind of experience and we surely don't like it when somebody acts superior to us. We don't like it when we feel inferior, that we don't measure up. We can be quite fragile. Fear of humiliation can be quite strong in us.

In today's Gospel Jesus turns everything upside down..."Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant, whoever wishes to be the first among you will be the slave of all."

Recently I read this story: A boy was coming home late from school almost every day without any good reason. No amount of discussion about the lateness seemed to help. Finally the boy's father sat him down and said to him, "The next time you come home late from school you are going to be given bread and water for your supper and nothing else. Do you understand?"

A few days later the boy came home later than ever. His mother met him at the door with silence. His father met him in the living room with silence as well. When they sat down to dinner the boy's heart sank. His mother's and father's plates were filled with food but his own plate had only a slice of bread. Next to his plate was a lonely glass of water. The boy stared first at the bread, then at the glass of water. To make it worse he was absolutely starving.

His father waited for the full impact to sink in. Then quietly he took the boy's plate and placed it in front of himself. He took his own plate filled with food and put it in front of the boy. The boy understood. The father was taking upon himself the punishment that he, the boy, had brought upon himself.

Years later, the boy, now a man recalled, "All my life I've known what God is like by what my father did that night.

At this moment Jesus commitment to you is deep, deeper than the father's commitment to his son. At this moment Jesus is your servant. James and John were looking for a promotion. They didn't understand Jesus.

If we could only get it. Jesus comes to serve, to give His life as a ransom for us.

May we too give our lives as a ransom in service for our brothers and sisters.

Has anybody ever made a fool of you?

Now we celebrate, we receive our servant Jesus in the Eucharist! Food to serve.