

O Lord, guide us to be friends of peace and pure of heart!

Isaiah 53:10-11

Psalm 33

Hebrews 4:14-16

Mark 10:35-45

The prophecy in Isaiah speaks of one whom the Lord was pleased to crush in infirmity. This one will give his life as an offering and he shall see light in the fullness of days. The will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him and he shall justify many.

The psalmist describes the Lord's word as upright, his works as trustworthy, and his kindness fills all the earth. The Lord is our help and our shield and his kindness is upon us so let us not lose hope.

The brothers and sisters in Christ are told by Paul that Jesus is the great high priest who passed through the heavens. Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses and we are to confidently approach the throne of grace to receive his mercy; we will be given the grace of timely help.

James and John approach Jesus and ask him for special privileges but the response is that they do not know what they ask. Sitting on the right and left of Jesus is for the Father to determine and not something that Jesus can give. The other disciples became indignant when they heard of this request and Jesus explained: **"Whoever wishes to be great among you will be the servant. Whoever wishes to be first will need to serve all."**

Our prayer is "Holy, Holy, Holy",
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Three in One, All-Holy mystery.

If you are good and virtuous believe that there is greater goodness in many others and this will help you maintain a humble posture. *Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.*¹ It will not hurt you to consider yourself below everyone else, even if in reality you are not. But think of yourself above even one other and it could cause you great harm. The humble person has deep peace but the proud person's heart is always troubled with envy and easily aroused to anger and resentment. (From Imitation by Thomas of Kempis, Book 1, Chapt.7, Avoiding Vain Hope and Pride)

The formula for success in following Jesus is to do as he has done, namely, "to serve and not be served." In such humility Jesus broke the power of sin and death. Humility is so basic that St. Augustine once wrote: "Should you ask me what is the first thing in religion, I should reply that the first, second, and third thing therein is humility."

Whoever Wishes To Be Great

Blessed is he who, dwelling amidst many people,
Does not turn towards the many,
But directs his whole heart to God.
Blessed is he who purchases Christ with all his belongings and has,
As his only possession,
The cross which he raises on high.
Blessed is he who,
Administering his cleanly-gained possessions,
Extends God's hand to those who are in need.

(Saint Gregory Nazianzus, monk and bishop, writer of prayers and poems, 4th Century)

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¹ James 4:10