

## Homily for 25th Sunday

The first reading sounds like one of the Psalms that evokes Christ's passion or like a Servant Song from Isaiah. In fact it comes from the Book of Wisdom, one of the latest books in the Bible, written in Egypt (Alexandria) and composed not in Hebrew but in Greek. The situation it describes, about a righteous person who is insulted, tortured and executed, is one that is not confined to the sufferings of the Jews. It is a situation that arises at all times. Today's first reading is fulfilled in the life of Christ. First, it points to Christ the Son of God, who was put to death by jealous and wicked people. This reading is also fulfilled in the life of all those who suffer unjust persecutions today for being true and just. Like Christ, sometimes, we are persecuted by our enemies, and by even by our friends for doing the right thing. Our second reading remind us of the importance of focusing sincerely on the things that unite us rather than on the ones that divide us. We all desire a harmonious life, yet many Christian communities, families and homes live in frequent conflicts and disorder. Sadly, the root of most of such conflicts is selfish ambitions. So, James admonishes us not to allow selfish ambitions destroy our relationships, families and communities.

James asks us: "Where do all these battles between you first start. Is it not precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so, you fight to get your way by force..." Of course, many families, marriages, communities and nations have already been destroyed because of selfish ambitions or desires.

In today's gospel, Jesus foretells his imminent suffering, death and resurrection. Unfortunately, instead of reflecting on what Christ was saying, his disciples were busy quarrelling secretly over who was the greatest. A lot of people tend to define and evaluate people in terms of the job they do. Hence, if they learn that a person is a doctor, their estimation of that person goes up. But in learning that a person is an ordinary worker their estimation stays earthbound. This is unfair and rather silly. There's something more important than the job, namely the kind of human being behind the job. The mistake that the apostles made was to put the job or position first. In their eyes the one who was greatest was the one who had the highest position. Therefore, by using a child as an example for us today, It means that, we have to live our lives in humble service to God and to one another. To be great is to be focused on something other than oneself. It means our ability to accommodate, welcome, and work in harmony with others just as children always do. It also means the readiness to accept the truth and, to reflect positively on it. It also means to be ready to serve and, offer oneself for the sake of others as Christ did, rather than seeking to be served by others. As we exalt Jesus Christ the son of God and the wisdom that came down from heaven to become the servant of men. The church invites us to listen to him and follow his examples by living a self-sacrificing and harmonious Christian life.