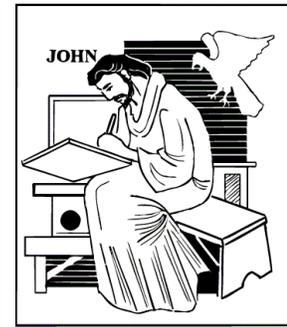
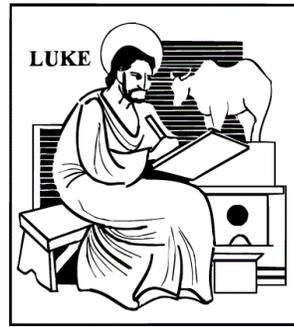
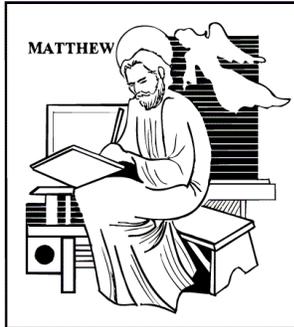


Breaking Open the Word



October 18, 2015 Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 146 Gospel [Mk 10:35-45](#)

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." He replied, "What do you wish me to do for you?" They answered him, "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left." Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" They said to him, "We can." Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John. Jesus summoned them and said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Spiritual Reflection:

In Mark's version of today's Gospel, it is John and James that ask Jesus for the privilege of sitting on the thrones on his right and his left. I think before we judge them too quickly we need to look at who they become in the light of the resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit. John becomes the mystic writer of the Gospel and James becomes the first apostle to be martyred. We see that their time with Jesus has changed them for the better. Many people come to Jesus for a variety of reasons and that is really not important. What is important is that as our faith develops our relationship with Christ develops also. We need to allow our time with Christ to change us.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Why did you start to follow Jesus?
2. Why do you follow Jesus?
3. What do you want from God and what is that God wants to give you?
4. How has your faith changed you?
5. How can you help others grow in their relationship with Jesus?