



Grain

“One of the moral diseases we communicate to one another in society comes from huddling together in the pale light of an insufficient answer to a question we are afraid to ask.” –Thomas Merton

Field

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶ And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” ³⁷ And they said to him, “Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹ They replied, “We are able.” Then 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, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared... ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:35-40 & 45

Thoughts by Reverend James Lynch, Town of Dunn, WI

There are questions being asked right now of and about those who are bidding to become the leaders of the people of the nation, the states, various localities and districts in and around that nation.

Questions are asked about policies or what some see as lack of. What will you do, for example, would-be leaders are asked, with the economy, about immigration, to the nation’s allies, in the face of the nation’s enemies, for people who don’t look like you, love like you, may disagree with you? They are asked about their past actions, current plans, future goals with the hope of figuring out a little more who they really are.

The one question it seems like is never asked, at least very loudly, very directly is do you know what you are getting into? Why are you seeking this position? Is it for the right reasons? Can you make decisions for the good of the country, your state, your various localities and districts, even if those decisions may be unpopular at the time? Are you set to advocate and push hard for policies and programs that benefit more than just you, your friends, a small group of allies – even if it may cost you the support of some of those friends and allies?

John and James find themselves facing these questions when they go behind the others’ backs to seek out the prime leadership spots in the group and beyond for themselves. Jesus implores them to check themselves.

Why are you doing this? Is it for the right reasons or selfish ones? Do you know what you are getting into? What are you hoping to gain? And a couple he didn’t ask: Are you the leaders needed at this moment? Will the group – or the nation or the state or the various localities and districts – benefit from having you in these positions?

Those last two questions, the ones not asked but definitely implied, are questions we all should be asking ourselves about those who hope to lead our country, our state, our various localities and districts. Happy Monday!

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blessings upon you,

Pastor Jim