

Yr 2 5th Sunday Great Fast Parents' Cheat Sheet
(Mary of Egypt) Who is the Greatest

1. What did James and John ask Jesus in today's Gospel?

They asked to be seated in a special place right beside Jesus in His kingdom. Jesus had just told them that he was going to suffer and the first things they thought about was themselves and how they thought that they were the most important. They missed the part about how one must suffer sometimes in order to follow Jesus. This should be one of our greatest prayers - that God give us the strength to go through hard times, in order to serve him and that we might be strong enough always to serve others and not ourselves.

2. Have you ever been around someone who wanted all the attention or who wanted special treatment? How did it make you feel?

We are often just like the disciples, when others act like this. We get angry and then sometimes say to ourselves "Well if he/she can do that then I will too!" This is not what Jesus calls us to do. Instead we can take a moment and pray for that person - whether they are a bully, a know it all, or selfish. We can pray that God might speak to their heart and tell them that they are loved and that they don't have to be the most important in other people's eyes because they already are important in God's eyes.

3. Who did Jesus say will be the greatest in His kingdom?

Jesus said to all of them: "You know that earthly rulers act so important and use their power to show off. But it should not be that way with my followers. Any of you that wants to be great should be a servant. Whoever wants to be important should serve everyone else. Even I did not come to be served, but to serve others, and to give My life to save many people."

Being great does not mean being important in the eyes of others. It means serving others, quietly, and humbly, knowing that God is the source of all your strength and abilities.

Explore, as a family, how you can serve others without being "paid" by compliments, praise or money. As Christians we need to remember that if we receive our reward from the praise and recognition of others while we live, we have already received our payment. Instead we await our heavenly reward, when Christ welcomes us and says to us: "Well done, good and faithful servant." *Mt 25:21*

