

## **BLESSINGS ALWAYS**

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Association Minister Message

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*PRIVILEGE.* “And they (James and John) said to Jesus, ‘Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.’” (Mark 10:36). Humility is hard to find these days in the contentiousness and controversies of human relationships. So often many think that they have *PRIVILEGES* because they have earned them or deserve them. Many stories on the internet report about air travelers who sit in seats that were not assigned to them so they can be near family or friends, don’t want to sit near someone who is different, or want more room. In a time of narcissistic attitudes, the “I” becomes most important and personal comfort is a *PRIVILEGE* that should be due them.

James and John were some of the first responder to Jesus’ call to follow Him at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. They were not quite sure what was expected as followers and it seemed easy following Jesus because Jesus dealt with the fear and anger of the crowds and the religious and political leaders. They were followers without responsibilities. No wonder they wanted “*the best seats*” next to Jesus. They wanted *PRIVILEGE* without knowing the ramifications of tasks and “*commissions*” that they would be called to do to follow Jesus as proclaimers of Jesus’ message of transformation. The other 10 disciples, Mark writes, “*When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.*” (vs. 41).

Jesus tells His disciples, including us, that living as Christ’s disciples demands responsibility: “*...whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many,*” (vss. 43-45). Servanthood. Sacrifice. Generosity. Welcoming. Honoring others. These are the ways of being Christ’s followers in our words and deeds. Christ in us is known as Christ through us. It is healing others and us, loving our neighbors as we want to be loved, and it is doing ministry not from *PRIVILEGED* places but from the depths of our being reflecting God’s love that has transformed us as God’s children. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*