

In today's Gospel, Mark 10:32-45, the Zebedee brothers ask Jesus Christ if they can sit at his right and left hand in His glory. In response, Christ teaches them an important lesson which is whoever is to be great will be a servant and whoever will be first will be a slave to all. He emphasized to them that He came to serve and not be served, to give His "life as ransom for many."

Dearest ones, Christ Jesus calls us all to be humble servants to one another. It isn't about being successful in power or placement, but rather it is about building authentic relationships with God and with each other in love and joy!

As we journey moving towards the Kingdom of God in our lives, many times we fail to hit the mark and sin. Yet, we know that these sins can be forgiven through repentance. Saint Mary of Egypt, who we celebrate today, is a great example of sincere repentance.

She was a sinful woman who when trying to enter the church of the Holy Sepulchre, was unable to do so because of a great invisible force that stopped her. She prayed with deep and sincere repentance, and when she tried to enter the church again, she was allowed to in order to venerate the life-giving Cross of Christ. Afterwards, she changed her life radically and went to the desert living in extreme asceticism for 47 years; fasting, praying and seeking communion with God.

For this reason the Church celebrates her memory, on this the fifth Sunday of Great Lent in order to remind us the importance of ongoing repentance. Let us always remember these two great lessons, that of repentance and of serving one another; in His name, let us pray, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.