

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Jesus said to his apostles: “What were you arguing about on the way?” They remained silent because they had been arguing among themselves as to who was the greatest. Each of these men had been called to be one of The Twelve. The Twelve was to represent the beginning of the New Israel like the original Twelve sons of Jacob (Israel) were originally each the head of one of the tribes of Israel which made up the kingdom of Israel. They had all seen the various kinds of power that Jesus manifested and demonstrated. He cured the sick. All kinds of sick people. He cast out demons. All kinds of demons. He raised that little girl back to life. And the son of the widow of Nain on the way to his burial. And Lazarus, four days in the tomb.

They had seen him feed five thousand with a couple of loaves of bread and some fish in the wilderness of Galilee. They had witnessed the miraculous draught of fish. And the calming of the storm which threatened to capsize their little boat. They had seen him walk on water. They had seen him offer forgiveness to sinners and teach everywhere. They had seen him take on the Scribes and Pharisees and show that they were no match for him.

They knew all about the power of the Son of Man. They were close to him. Very close. Each had arrived after some kind of personal encounter with Jesus that literally changed their lives. Each had been called and each had chosen to follow. But twelve is a big number. Jockeying for position they argued about who was the closest to Jesus. The competitive spirit was alive and well among the Twelve. Jesus would have none of it. There is room for everyone. Everyone. Even kids get this. Children. And so Jesus tells these very competitive men that they have to change and become like children in order even to enter the Kingdom of God. Which raised a question. How childlike were they? And another: How childlike are you? The question of the week.