

Lent Day 27
Friday March 11, 2016
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Reading: Mark 9.30-37

Reflection

After having a strong, dominant voice in the culture for so long it can be hard for Christians to face up to the reality that we have become marginalized — at least for those Christians in the west. For many other world Christians they have never had the dominant voice. One of the lies that we start to believe as a result of our new position is to believe that because our voice is not powerful then it is unfavourable. Scripture says different.

These disciples desire power and now that Jesus has come forward about being the messiah there is hope of regaining power. But, Jesus keeps talking about dying. Not only that but he insists that kingdom power does not look like world power. He uses two metaphors: slave and child. Neither metaphor would have been attractive; in fact, neither are attractive now. Both speak about weakness.

We have an opportunity now to be weak in a way we haven't in the past. We might not be able to set public policy, or determine the moral right, but we can live as servants and children of the kingdom. In doing so our lives can have a voice which will be it's own powerful witness. This is a recovery of who we once were and who we are in much of the world. Once upon a time Christians were known for the fact that they didn't expose (leave to die by exposure) their children (female or ill) but, in fact, collected and cared for children left by others. It was that practice which changed the practice and set policy.

Prayer

Lord of the cross, help us to stop arguing about who is the greatest and help us to live as servants and children. Make our witness focus more on our lives and less on our words. Amen.