



OCT 17, 2021 | SUNDAY MORNING MESSAGE

REVEREND EDWARD DUNN

“Are you able?” Jesus asks James and John. Those boys of Zebedee...the Sons of Thunder (as Jesus names them in Mark 3) make a bold request. They ask Jesus for places of honor in the kingdom. In reply he asks, “Are you able?”

We know, given our present day perspective, that they have misunderstood the idea of the kingdom of God. We read, from sources of their day, that James and John will suffer for their faith. Legend says that James is the first of the disciples to be martyred for his faith yet also suggests that John will be the last of the disciples to die from old age. These brothers and Peter will be inner circle of the disciples and will be crucial in the beginning of the church following Jesus’ ascension.

“Grant us the seats of honor” they ask. Except the seats and the kingdom of which they make their request is not modeled after the seats of power as defined by the world. The kingdom Jesus proclaimed is characterized by service; and lives that are given away.

Our journey to being a vital congregation will lead us to places of honor only as we serve; only as we are willing to give up our life rather than accumulate accolades. As we continue to strive for vitality, may we hear the same question, “Are you able?” and may we respond, “Lord, we are able only with your help!”

Blessings,
Edward