

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Gospel text (Mk 9:30-37): Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." ...

Jesus, "the Servant of God", predicts His Passion

EDITORIAL TEAM evangelii.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
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Today, we reach the second one of the three predictions of the Passion that stands for Jesus' journey up to Jerusalem. To this teaching of the Lord, as usual, it follows the disciples' defiance. Jesus fixes (us) them: The ascent to God occurs precisely in the descent of humble service, in the descent of love.

In Jesus Christ, God has revealed himself in His descending: He did not boast of His divine condition, but emptied Himself by taking on the nature of a slave until surrendering to the "death on a Cross" (cf. Phil 2,6-9). The Passion predictions reach their culmination in the statement that follows the third prediction: "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk 10,45).

—Jesus is the "servant" of God who suffers and dies, whom the Prophet Isaiah had foretold in his songs. "Service" is the true form of rule, and it gives us an insight into God's way of being "Lord".