

OCTOBER 18, 2015



TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ISAIAH 53:10 – 11

PSALM 33:4 – 5, 18 – 19, 20, 22

HEBREWS 4:14 – 16

MARK 10:35 – 45 OR 10:42 – 45

REFLECTION

In the beginning of the movie *Captain America*, Steve Rogers is a loser. Rejected again and again by army recruiters, Rogers perseveres. In the eyes of the world, he's not soldier material. Then a director of a secret experimental "super soldier" project witnesses Rogers interacting with others and signs him up. Rogers looks even more like a loser next to these super soldier recruits until something happens after a group exercise. The drill sergeant throws a dummy grenade on the ground, and while everyone else ducks for cover, Rogers immediately throws himself on top of the grenade. Test over! The true thing that makes a soldier "super" comes from the inside, not the outside. The Messiah is proven to be real in the same way. Jesus' power isn't the kind that makes other people run for cover; it is a self-giving love that comes from the inside. He doesn't come to control or to impress people; he comes to serve. In the readings today, the one who suffers with and for the sake of his people is the holy one. The one who shares power, wisdom, and blessing is a Messiah worth following!



CAPTAIN AMERICA
The First Avenger (2011)

ACTION

Live heroically. Before you say one negative thing, say five positive things. This will do wonders at home! Do this with a family member or a friend so you can share and break open the experience. Don't make a list of someone's faults or shortcomings. Instead, make a list of their gifts and talents. Then tell them what you appreciate about them. When someone says or does something hurtful to you, don't retaliate. Surprise them by being patient with them. Ask if there's anything they need from you.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

Some say the best defense is a better offense. What do you think that means? When have you seen people in authority fail in their use of power? When have you seen power and authority used to lift others up, rather than push them down?

● In what ways have you taken your gifts for granted?