

Getting Promoted

Did you ever apply for a promotion and didn't get it? I have had that experience a few times. Other times I was promoted but not to where I thought it would be. Now, if we had sought something and weren't granted it, I would venture to say that most of us would have felt slighted, or even angry when it happened. On the occasions when I have applied or wanted things later in life, I have come to realize that I did not get them because "something else was supposed to happen" or maybe it wasn't part of what God had in store for me.

For those of us who had been promoted, what did we find? As the French philosopher and writer Voltaire said, "With great power come great responsibility." While I was tickled to find myself in the position of Principal, there were many times when I said to myself, "Oh wow, this is up to me!" In my first year as Principal, the fourth day of school was September 11, 2001. What do we tell children? What do we tell the staff? We got through it. In the same year on two consecutive days we had electrical fires in the attic. The second day, I was driving up to the building before school and smoke was pouring out of the building. Do

we have school? Do we have the parents pick up the children? I had busses coming along with the fire trucks. Luckily, no one was injured and no great damage was done to the building. It was Friday, so we had the weekend to recover. Ah, with power (honor) come great responsibility. Why apply for a “promotion” to Principal?

It appears that those sons of Zebedee, James and John, were applying for some sort of promotion. On one level, it would make sense that they make such a move. Weren't they in the “inner circle” of disciples as Jesus brought them and Peter up to the mountaintop for the Transfiguration? Even when they were told that they wouldn't be able to handle what came with this “great seat of honor” and that it wasn't up to Jesus to grant this “promotion”, James and John still pushed for it. What they didn't understand was that they would not be in a position to be served but to serve others.

Our call to live out the Gospel message truly puts us in positions to serve. While it is nice to be a member of a church, we are also called to serve the church as together we work to bring the Gospel message to the community. We find ourselves in all types of situations in dinners, soup

kitchens, thrift shops, helping church members, assisting strangers, and sometimes allowing others to minister to us.

I know we have talked about this before, but we have church members who, as they age gracefully, have situations where they need help. Sometimes they are not in a position to drive themselves to appointments or the grocery store. They may not be able to handle the lawn, leaves, or snow removal. (See, it isn't all bad!) When we lose some of our independence, it can make us uncomfortable. But, I'd like you to look at it as an opportunity to allow others to answer that call to serve. You are not asking TO BE SERVED but you must be served. And, in doing so, you allow others to fulfill their ministry.

Those who have parents, family members, or friends/neighbors who rely on you for help, you are being called to serve. Your parents and relatives are not ungrateful but may be a bit ornery as they get used to the fact that you are there to serve.

Let our role model in service be the Son of Man who came into this world not to be served but to serve. May our promotion be of service to those in need.

