

Lenten Devotion
28 February 2018.

The Season of Lent, by the Rev Wayne van Heerden

“... even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

In the last few days before the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, the disciples were jockeying for positions of power, indeed each one of them wanted to be the top disciple after his death. (They could not understand the fact that Jesus would rise from the dead again.) But, each one of them knew the power that they could have as the leader of the pack.

The situation was getting so tense that two disciples got their mother to speak to Jesus, the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When the other disciples heard of this incident, they were indignant towards the brothers. In a moment of brilliance, Jesus intervenes into the situation, and changes the whole concept of leadership.

Leadership is not about being served, but about serving others. Jesus Christ's words were prophetic, as He not only served the communities of Israel in the 3 years of His ministry, but He showed them the ultimate sacrifice of leadership - He offered His life on the Cross of Calvary!

In the season of Lent, it is not so much about fasting from eating your favourite foods like chocolate, meat, etc. It is about coming to understand our worldliness and how it causes a barrier between us and God. It is important in Lent to understand our shortcomings and to repent of them before God. Lent is not there to put us on a guilt trip, but it teaches us that we are wholly dependent upon God. It is only He who can forgive our sins, and it is only God who can turn our weaknesses into His strengths!

In the midst of your challengers this week, turn to God through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Repent from those sins that are in your life, and TRUST God to change your weaknesses into His strengths.