

Have you ever thought that your life is like a blank check? Have you ever thought you can write your own ticket? It seems that is what the two disciples James and John believed. Listen once again to their words in today's Gospel. Boldly they say to Jesus, "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left. "

Well, it's not like that. St. John Newman an English Cardinal who was very prominent in the 1<sup>st</sup> Vatican Council during the nineteenth century wrote these words, "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next."

In today's Gospel Jesus says to James and John, "What do you wish me to do for you?" Now, if today Jesus were to speak those words to you, how would you answer? Would it be about your health or your family? Would it be about your finances or your future? Would you get exactly what you asked for every time? Probably not.

So what does Jesus mean when He says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you"? James and John did not immediately receive that which they asked for. Prayer is not like putting money in a slot and having your answer pop out.

I must admit that prayer is a mystery to me but this I believe, this I know; God has a plan for me, a purpose for my life. Prayer gives me a living relationship with God. I can tell Him I love Him and I know He loves me and cares for me. I can praise Him and tell Him I love Him. I can thank God for my blessings and seek His help and understanding in my times of suffering. I can ask Him to show me the way.

During the Second World War my cousin went missing in action. Until her dying day his mother prayed that he would come home. Every day she thought he would come in the front door. It never happened but he was safe in God's hands.

"God has created each of us to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life but I shall be told in the next."

We can be so grateful for this gift of prayer. Through prayer our love, our friendship with God continues to grow stronger and deeper. Praise God!

Keep on praying!