



Small group discussion questions October 2015

Chapter & verse – Rosalind Selby (p22)

Read Mark 10:35-45, followed by Rosalind Selby's article.

- 1. Rosalind starts by talking about how Communion is served. What different Communion practices have you experienced? Which have you found most valuable?
- 2. In Mark 10:37 James and John say to Jesus: "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory". How do you think the brothers pictured this working in practice?
- 3. In paragraph two of "Chapter & verse", Rosalind compares this passage with Matthew's version of the story. What, do you think, is the significance of Matthew's changes?
- 4. Rosalind suggests that experience in the family business might have lain behind James' and John's request. Does this seem likely to you? What else might have been behind it?
- 5. Rosalind says in paragraph three: "All are being challenged about their understanding of the status of Jesus-followers". How did they misunderstand what it meant to follow Jesus? How does the Church today struggle with the same issues?
- 6. In paragraph four, Rosalind suggests that ministers and congregations are both guilty of giving too high a status to ministers. Do you agree that this is a problem? How would you like to see the role of ordained ministers change?
- 7. In paragraph five, Rosalind applies Jesus' teaching in this passage to discussions in today's Church about the future of ministry. How might this passage effect how we see the future of the Church? What, to quote Rosalind's final words, do you dare to hope for?





For further reflection: "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave". (Philippians 2: 5-7)

Prayer: Servant Jesus, who washed the feet of your own followers, when we long to rise above one another, help us to see ourselves as you see us, all made in God's image, all loved children, all imperfect followers with a lot to learn. Grant us a share of your humility, we pray, and help us to serve. Amen.