

## **Esther and Emmett – Oct 17, 2021**

Emmett: Hi Esther.

Esther: Hi Emmett. What are you up to?

Emmett: I'm imagining Jesus flying on an airplane!

Esther: Oh Emmett, they didn't have airplanes in Jesus' time.

Emmett: Well that's good, because Jesus would always have been stuck in the middle seat!

Esther: Why do you think that Jesus would be in the middle seat?

Emmett: Because his disciples wanted the seat by the window and the seat on the aisle. I don't blame them., I think those are the better seats.

Esther: Why are you thinking about Jesus and airplanes?

Emmett: Because I've been reading the Bible and how the disciples wanted Jesus to have the middle seat.

Esther: I don't think they were talking about being on an airplane!

Emmett: It sounded like that to me. Two of the disciples, James and John – they were brothers, you know – they told Jesus they wanted him to do something for them.

Esther: Oh, now I know what story you've been reading in the Bible!

Emmett: They said," Allow us to sit, one at your hand and one at your left, in your glory." I thought it was kind of funny to say "in your glory"...then I thought that maybe 'glory' was the name of an airplane.

Esther: Oh Emmett!

Emmett: I know...sometimes I'm so smart I even amaze myself.

Esther: 'Glory' wasn't the name of an airplane.

Emmett: It wasn't?

Esther: No. James and John thought that God was going to put Jesus in charge of the world. You know how at the end of the prayer we say in worship, it says, "For thine is

the kingdom, and the power and the glory...”

Emmett: Right, that’s the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

Esther: Yes. When we say that the kingdom and the power and the glory are God’s, we are saying that this is God’s world, and that God shows us how to live. If the ‘Glory’ belongs to God, then God is the One we look to in order to understand how to live and how to love one another. God is important for everything that happens.

Emmett: Hmmm...I’m confused. So what did James and John – they were brothers you know – what did they want when they wanted to sit on the left and right of Jesus.

Esther: Well, if you are sitting at a long dinner table, there is someone sitting beside you on your left, and someone sitting beside you on your right.

Emmett: It makes it a lot easier to pass the food to one another!

Esther: That’s because those people are sitting close to you. In fact, they are the closest people to you at the table.

Emmett: So James and John wanted to sit close to Jesus when they were eating?

Esther: Yes, because in that society, if someone important invited people to a meal, the person hosting the dinner was supposed to seat next to themselves the people they thought were the most important people.

Emmett: Ohhhhh...! So James and John wanted a promotion!

Esther: They wanted Jesus to say they were the most important disciples.

Emmett: That’s why the story in the Bible says that the other disciples got angry at James and John – who were brothers, you know.

Esther: Yes, they were upset, maybe because each of them wanted to sit on Jesus’ left or right-hand side.

Emmett: They were going to need a really wide plane!

Esther: Jesus told them not to be worried about who was most important. He said that everyone is important to God.

Emmett: I really like Jesus!

Esther: Jesus said God didn’t want them competing for God’s love... God wanted them to share God’s love...with everyone....so then everyone would know that they were

important to God.

Emmett: So...it wouldn't matter where anyone sat on the plane, just as long as everyone got to fly in the glory plane?

Esther: Well...I guess you could say that.

Emmett: I guess we could say that God loves us, so everyone is close to God...

Esther: And God is close to everyone of us! Thanks be to God. Amen!

Emmett: AMEN!