



BROKEN SIGNPOSTS

**Sermon-based Guide
for Reflection and Discussion**

Week of November 21

Scripture: John 12:20-33

Sermon Title: *Broken Signposts: Power*

Summary:

Again, as we have been saying along, Jesus demonstrates power (like he does justice, love, freedom, truth, beauty, spirituality) but he does that in a way that is antithetical to our common definition, our broken understandings. The power of Jesus comes through sacrifice – his sacrifice. What we see in this passage is the willingness of Jesus to surrender his power (and his privilege) for the sake of the salvation of the world* and for the Glory of the Father.

(*Note how the coming of the Greeks, representing the whole world, triggers Jesus’s notion that the “time has come.”)

As followers of Jesus, we must be willing to demonstrate the life-giving power of Jesus by taking up the power of the servant, of placing God and others above ourselves. This is and must be our counter-cultural witness.

Questions:

1. When you hear the word *power* ... What comes to mind? ... Is it positive or negative? How would you define power “in the world” versus power “in the faith”?
2. Building on your discussion of question #1, how does the Jesus we know from the gospels define power? Can you think of some examples from the scriptures where he speaks to or demonstrates power?
3. Assuming that your definition of the power that Jesus preaches and models is different than the demonstration of power often seen in the world, how do we as followers of Jesus demonstrate the power that he has and has given to us? Give some examples including (hopefully) ways in which you have seen that Jesus-centered power lived out through First Pres.