

You too are Mortal

During the Roman Empire, when a general returned from a victorious battle, the city of Rome would stage a parade to welcome the conqueror home. The parade would include the general's troops, and well as trophy captives who had been brought along as evidence of the victory. As the parade made its way through the city, the crowds would cheer their hero's success.

To prevent the general's ego from becoming too swollen, a slave rode along with him in his chariot. Why? So that as the crowd cheered of his success, the slave could continually whisper in his ear, "*You too are mortal*". When we are successful, we too may lose sight of our own mortality and allow our hearts to be filled with pride. St. James wrote, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble". The key word here is '*grace*'. The Lord alone deserves the thanks and praise especially for the gifts of grace he has given us.

Our achievements, successes, or greatness are not rooted in ourselves. They are a product of God's grace of goodness which we are eternally dependent. May we pray for the grace of God each morning: courage for every trial; hope for a better day and mercy for our failures. In this we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen!

Together through prayer and service,

Deacon Mike