

February 17, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

"FOLLOW ME"

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's Gospel

Jesus saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the customs post.

*He said to him, "**Follow me.**"*

And leaving everything behind, he got up and followed him.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house,

and a large crowd of tax collectors

and others were at table with them.

The Pharisees and their scribes complained to his disciples, saying,

"Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus said to them in reply,

"Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do.

I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners."

LUKE 5:27-32

Reflection

The invitation of Jesus to “follow” is crystal clear. Matthew, the tax collector, leaves his job and follows Jesus. The immediacy always amazes me. In real life, I would imagine that Matthew and the other apostle had heard of Jesus, watched him from a distance. Were their hearts burning within them as they listened and watched? The seemingly quick decision to follow must have been based on attraction and experience, and a desire for a relationship of belonging.

It is Lent, a time to ponder the circumstances of our lives, to seek God more intentionally, to reflect on one’s own desires, invitations, and discernment of God’s invitation to “follow” more authentically.

Following Jesus this Lent means that I choose to take on the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in whatever creative way I can imagine that addresses my faults. Perhaps following requires that I re-order my life pattern to allow time to pay attention, reflect, shift my focus from the intensity of the normal flow of my daily life and work, so to renew my relationship with God and seek to know Jesus more personally.

These 40 days of Lent provide a clarion call to follow Jesus, to muster a little discipline and pray for the grace of fidelity to the journey responding to Jesus’ call, “Follow me.”



For Pondering

- What has been the nature and experience of your relationship with Jesus?
 - What needs to change in you so to follow more faithfully?
 - How will you creatively engage in the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in a way that refocuses your inner spirit to the ways of God?
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For Prayer

*Sacred Heart of Jesus,
I lean upon your cross and ask for your help
to take up my own challenge that may lead to life.
I have heard your invitation to "Follow."
In response, You send me to be among your people.
Show me the way to life, to give of myself to you,
and reverence process that leads to the renewal of my heart and soul.
Awaken greater self-knowledge in me
so I may embrace the fullness of life to which I am invited.
I ask that you be my constant companion on this Lenten journey.
Amen.*

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