

January 23, 2025

Daily Reflections



FOLLOWING JESUS' EXAMPLE OF QUIET GIVING

By Lucy Dominguez

Today's Gospel

*Jesus withdrew toward the sea with his disciples.
A large number of people followed from Galilee and from Judea.
Hearing what he was doing,
a large number of people came to him also from Jerusalem,
from Idumea, from beyond the Jordan,
and from the neighborhood of Tyre and Sidon.
He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd,
so that they would not crush him.
He had cured many and, as a result, those who had diseases
were pressing upon him to touch him.
And whenever unclean spirits saw him they would fall down before him
and shout, "You are the Son of God."
He warned them sternly not to make him known.*

MARK 3:7-12

Reflection

In this Gospel passage, we see how people from all over Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, and beyond flock to Jesus, hoping for healing and restoration. Their desperation is evident; they know that Jesus has the power to bring them hope. Amid the crowds and chaos, Jesus takes practical steps to care for Himself by asking His disciples to prepare a boat. This reminds us that even though Jesus is full of compassion and love, He also sets boundaries to sustain His ability to serve others. His ministry is about meeting every need at the moment and caring for Himself so He can continue His work long-term.

The unclean spirits recognize Jesus as the Son of God, but He silences them. This shows that Jesus isn't seeking public recognition or acclaim. He focuses on quietly transforming lives and revealing God's Kingdom through His actions, not through attention or fame.

On December 23, my husband and I drove from house to house to deliver Christmas gifts to the children in my son's classroom. My son played Santa and surprised his classmates with gifts. There was no big recognition, there were no photos on social media, just thank yous, hugs, and smiles. We told our son how proud we were of him but kept it simple. The following day, my son said, "Mommy, I enjoyed dropping off gifts. Can we do it again?" He didn't need the applause or attention. The joy of giving was enough for him.

Like Jesus, my son showed us that real joy comes not from being recognized but from the simple act of giving. This experience reflects the quiet, humble service Jesus calls us to, serving others without expecting anything in return, just for the joy of spreading love and kindness.

Like Jesus, we are called to serve others quietly, with compassion and humility, trusting that our actions speak louder than any recognition or applause.



For Pondering

- How can I set healthy boundaries in my life, like Jesus did, to ensure I can continue serving others sustainably?
 - How can I focus more on quietly serving and giving without seeking recognition or praise?
 - How does the simple act of giving, without expecting anything in return, bring joy and transformation to both the giver and the receiver?
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For Prayer

St. Ignatius Prayer for Generosity

*Dear Lord, teach me to be generous;
teach me to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,*

*to labor and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.
Amen.*

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