

Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus

A Discipleship Journey



Discipleship **Where is Jesus Leading You Now?**

Week 27

What is Your Part of His Mission?

This month is our ninth and final month in our journey of Walking in the Foot Prints of Jesus. This month we explore where Jesus is leading you. We will maintain a common Opening Prayer with a reflection tailored toward Jesus' call for you and how you might answer that call.

This weekly material is offered to support our Discipleship Journey as we walk in the foot prints of Jesus.

We encourage you to use this material as a part of your daily prayer practice as follows:

- ❖ Begin with the Opening Prayer.
- ❖ Reflect on: Where is Jesus Leading You Now?
- ❖ Study Fruits of Discipleship.
- ❖ Close with the Closing Prayer.

Let us pray for each other that we are transformed, as individuals and as community, by this Discipleship Journey.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, we praise You, for You are generous. Forgive us for those times that we have strayed from Your plan for our lives. In Your Scripture You tell us, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so, ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest." (Luke 10:2) Thank You for coming to us through ordinary people and inviting us to join You in Your great work of love. Please send out laborers to help everyone experience the freedom, peace, and joy You intend for us. Show us what part You wish us to take in this mission. Please make our next steps toward Your mission clear and give us every grace we need to take them in faith. Jesus, we trust in You. We make this prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

Reflection:

Jesus wants to invite you into His mission. Discipleship by its very nature is missionary. To follow Jesus is to live your part of His mission to bring the good news to your corner of the world. God has given you gifts that our world needs. *The next step on the journey of discipleship is to discern what gifts He's given you and where He's calling you to use them to further His mission.* If you really want to grow in your faith, give it away. Faith shared is faith strengthened.

In order to discern God's gifts and call, you must practice the disciplines of seeking Him. The six habits you've practiced as part of this Discipleship Journey are the basics which help you to be open to receive the gifts and direction of the Holy Spirit.

We live in an instant age: instant messaging, instant dinners, instant coffee, instant answers. We want quick fixes and we hate to wait. Whether we like it or not, some things just take time. We cannot get or stay in shape unless we regularly exercise, eat well, and get enough sleep consistently over time. In the same way, it's difficult to hear God's call or discern the gifts He's given without working at it a little every day. Like building any worthwhile skill, it takes time, practice, and sometimes, a little trial and error, to figure out the plan that works best for you. So, make a plan to continue to practice the habits of discipleship and be on the lookout for where He's called and gifted you for His mission!

What unique gifts has God given you? Listen to where God is leading you to use these gifts.

Scripture: John 15:1 - 10

I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He breaks off every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, and He prunes every branch that does bear fruit so that it will be clean and bear more fruit. You have been made clean already by the teaching I have given you.

Remain united to Me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains on the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in Me.

I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without Me. Those who do not remain in Me are thrown out like a branch and dry up; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, where they are burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it.

My Father's glory is shown by your bearing much fruit; and in this way you become My disciples. I love you just as the Father loves Me; remain in My love. If you obey My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commandments and remain in His love.

What is the fruit that Jesus is asking you to bring forth?

What prevents that fruit from coming forth?

In what way will you remain united to Jesus, as He commands?

How do you think Jesus is calling you right now through this passage?

How are you going to respond?

Reflection with Journaling

In encountering Christ and deepening the habits of discipleship, our lives have changed. Each of us stands as a different person from who we were at the beginning of this process. Resisting temptations to return to our former way of life, our tasks now are to contemplate how we will continue to deepen our friendship with Jesus, and how He is calling us to make disciples of others. Prayerfully reflect on the following questions and write what is in your heart.

What habits of discipleship do I particularly desire to focus on going forward?

How will I grow more deeply in my prayer life?

How will I stay in regular, constant contact with Jesus?

Do I need a spiritual director?

How is God calling me to make disciples of others?

How do you feel God might be calling you right now?

How am I being called to share my faith, witness to my faith, in word and in action?

If I live with and in Jesus, what choices am I led to: about my life, about my work, about my goods, about my relationships, about my future?

Closing Prayer

Will you let me be your servant?
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey.
We are trav'lers on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night-time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping.
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
borne of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Lyrics: The Servant Song