

-Week 13-

The Gift of Faith: Seeing Things as Jesus Does

"IF THE VOCATION TO THE
joy of love
IS THE FUNDAMENTAL CALL THAT GOD HAS PLACED IN THE HEART OF EVERY YOUNG PERSON SO THAT EACH ONE'S EXISTENCE WILL BEAR FRUIT, FAITH IS BOTH A GIFT FROM ON HIGH AND A RESPONSE TO FEELING ONESELF CHOSEN AND LOVED."

THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS'
"YOUNG PEOPLE, THE FAITH & VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT"
PREPARATORY DOCUMENT

#SERVEANDDISCERN



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The Gift of Faith: Seeing Things as Jesus Does

Last week, we explored “A New Generation: Globalization & Multiculturalism,” which invited us to reflect on both the challenges and opportunities of our globalizing and multicultural world. We were also invited to think about the ‘other’ we encounter outside and inside of ourselves. Continuing into this thirteenth week of our Benedictine Volunteers 20-weeks Vocational Discernment Series inspired by the Synod of Bishops’ “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment” Preparatory Document, we explore “The Gift of Faith: Seeing Things as Jesus Does.” What does it mean to see things as Jesus does? When we choose love, what are the outcomes of this choice?

To see things as Jesus does means to see one’s whole life through a lens of love. Because Jesus chooses love, he is able to see the world and perceive others in unique ways. In Luke 19:1-10, Jesus vision of love pierces through Zacchaeus’ tax collector persona to see a nervous heart that deeply desires to give back. In Mark 14:3-9, Jesus’ vision of love pierces through the negative judgement of others to see the sincere heart of a woman’s desire to thank him by way of an intimate anointing with oil. In Matthew 26: 20-25 and Matthew 26:47-56, Jesus vision of love pierces through deep betrayal to see the insecure heart of a lying Judas. In Matthew 26: 31-25, Jesus vision of love pierces through Peter’s denial to see a heart full of fear and anxiety. Seeing his whole life through a lens of love enables Jesus to see through to the true intention of others and have compassion for their vulnerabilities.

At the core of all discernment is seeing and experiencing ourselves as deeply loved by God. Jesus’ knowing of God’s deep love for him helped him to love others in this same way. God’s love empowered him to fulfill his call, even when the circumstances and situations around him were difficult. Throughout the pain and agony of Jesus’ passion, Jesus’ trust in God’s plan buttressed all these difficult experiences in the ocean of God’s love. Jesus is able to have mercy for others midst his personal pain, betrayal, and impending death because Jesus roots himself in God’s love through all of these experiences. Seeing like Jesus means to experience ourselves as deeply loved, deserving of, and specially chosen by God just like Jesus did. When we can see ourselves through God’s eyes—deeply loved—we can then begin to open our hearts to his call and find our own unique ways to share this love with others.

Questions for Reflection:

- Spend some time praying with the events of Jesus' passion. It may helpful to visit with Matthew 21:1-11, Matthew 26: 1-75, Matthew 27: 1-66; or, Mark 11: 1-11 and Mark 14: 1-72, and Mark 15: 1-47; or, Luke 19: 28-40, Luke 22: 1-71, Luke 23: 1-56, and Luke 24: 1-12. Where do you see Jesus struggle? Where do you see Jesus choosing love? How does this love help him to fulfill his calling?
- When in your life did choosing love help you to see things differently? Recall these events. What effects did this have on your life? On others?