

Covenant Life

As we continue through this wonderful season of **Advent** I want to again call your attention to our website [here](#) where we have collected Advent resources.

- Due to the recent escalation in covid cases we are discerning whether to have our December Community Gathering next Sunday. An email will be sent out after our Coordinator call tomorrow evening. If you have input on this decision, please reply or contact a Coordinator.
- If you can bring a meal to support the Powers family click [here](#).
- We are trying to close our 2021 Promise Drive, if you have not responded, please click [here](#) or mail in or contact Sue Wagner.
- Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Reflection - During Bible Study this week I was stuck by Jeff Cavin's distinction between being a Christian and being a Disciple. His point was that many quickly admit to being a Christian based on knowledge of their faith, but he emphasized Jesus' call to be His disciple. I was very touched by his words and all week have been discerning whether to center this reflection on this point. The Holy Spirit provided confirmation when I listened again today to Jeff's teaching and heard him explain the mission of a disciple to "Prepare The Way". This of course was the theme today in our first reading and Gospel.

Jeff's teaching is not new to us in Community, but I think it worth reflecting upon. To be a Christian is to be a disciple. But what is a disciple? A disciple is a disciplined follower of Christ, someone who literally follows Him and picks up His work and carries it on. As disciples we do His work. This means copying Him, becoming like Him, taking Him as our model, and following in His footsteps. Simply put disciples do what Jesus did.

I was convicted as I meditated on this. Being a disciple requires an active response to Christ. It does not matter how many teachings I have listened to, it does not matter how many questions I can answer correctly, what matters is my

active response today, and every day, to the mission He has entrusted to me as His disciple.

He has personally called every one of us to be His active disciples. We hear in His Word that he sent 70 out, two by two, to share His mission and bring His message to the entire world. A key point that Jeff makes is that He did not just send them out, He gives them power and authority to carry out the mission. No one knows this better than us as Catholic Charismatics. After we surrendered our lives to Him and asked Him to baptize us with His Spirit, He imparted His Holy Spirit upon us. So, as the 70 learned when they actively shared in the mission, disciples have His power and authority over satan and all his evil spirits. All we must do is to surrender and let His power move in and through and out of us.

The Church today reminds us today of our calling as disciples to *Prepare the Way of the Lord*. When the 70 did this in Jesus' day they were amazed at the power that came from going forth *In His Name*. They realized that He was the source of the power...that it was as if He was going forth. They were being disciples by copying Him, becoming like Him, following in His footsteps and doing His work. This is what we say Yes to as Christians, as disciples. We join in His victory and His mission; heaven is our home but until we get there, we have a job to do!

As I reflected on this a few minutes I found myself thinking fondly of our Community and our School and our other ministries. Despite the virus the Community is investing in building covenant community. Despite the virus our School is investing in educating young children and teaching them to be saints and leading them into a personal relationship with Jesus. These organizations are active discipleship ministries. Our mission as His disciples is to not only get ourselves to Heaven but to bring our family and as many people as we possibly can with us. How are we actively discipling?

Let us today recommit to being His disciples...being very active in finding ways, throughout our day, and day after day, to follow His footsteps, do what He would do, heal the sick, help the poor, free the prisoner, love the unlovable. This is what

it means to be a Christian, this is what it means to be His disciple, this is what it means to be a covenant member of the Christian Community of God's Delight.

Let us pray together: "Jesus, I love you and so very much want to be Your active disciple. Please forgive me for the times I just sit back and let others do Your work. Give me today, Your Holy Spirit anew so that I can go forth with Your power and Your authority to make disciples of everyone that I encounter. I want to live out my covenant with You and my covenant sisters and brothers in the most active way that I possibly can. I know this is only possible through my total surrender to You and the power of Your Holy Spirit. I recommit myself to You today and pledge to be active in leading souls to their heavenly reward with You. Amen."

God bless,
David