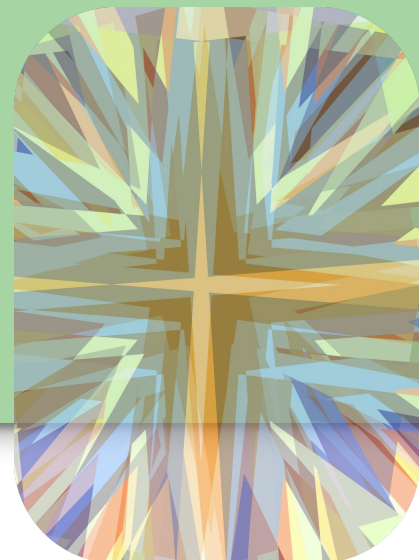


Impact

Issue 6

Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.



What does it cost to be a disciple of Jesus?

Christianity is not an organization that assesses dues once a year, like a fitness club that sends an email reminder when it is time to renew membership. And unlike joining a gym, making a commitment to live as a disciple is not about looking for the option that is the least expensive.

The truth is, when we take the call of discipleship to heart, we realize that living as a follower of Jesus costs something. In fact, the more deeply we commit ourselves to our Lord, the greater the impact our faith will have. **What is the cost of discipleship?** While each of us responds to the Lord personally and



discerns how we will respond to Christ's call to love and serve, there are common aspects of this life: Disciples put God first; pray; make a commitment to follow Jesus and to grow in relationship with him; consider and respond to the needs of others, especially the poor and those in need of great care. Disciples go out of their way for the sake of others. Disciples sacrifice, because Jesus sacrificed himself for our salvation. Disciples turn away from the temptation to be self-centered and selfish, and instead give of themselves and their resources in order to make Christ's love known. **What is the cost of discipleship for you?** Are you ready to live as a follower of our Lord? Will you turn away from selfishness and make your daily decisions in light of Jesus' way of self-giving love?

Disciples are called to change the world

In his closing talk at World Youth Day in Krakow on July 30, Pope Francis spoke to the call to actively live as a disciple who leaves our mark on the world.

Pope Francis' inspiring words are not only for the youth who gathered in Krakow, but indeed, for each of us: "Jesus is the Lord of risk, of the eternal 'more.' He is not the Lord of comfort, security and

ease." Following Jesus "demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths. "God

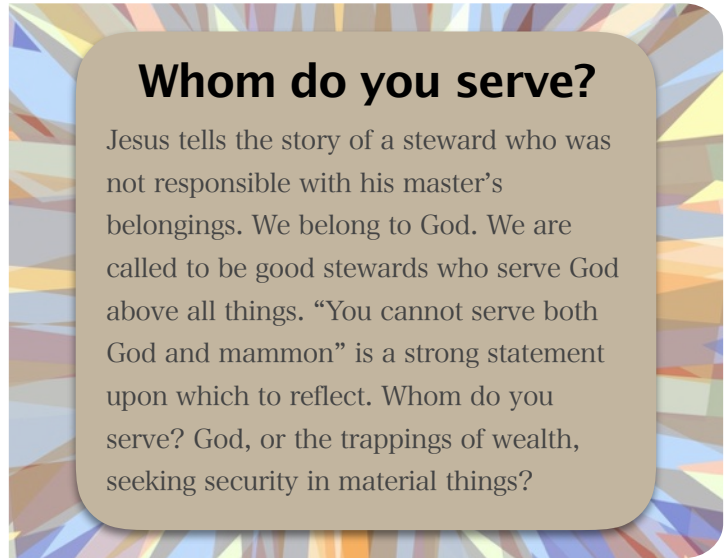
expects something from you. God wants something from you. God hopes in you. He comes to open the doors of our lives, our dreams, our ways of seeing things. He is encouraging you to

dream. He wants to make you see that, with you, the world can be different. For the fact is, unless you offer the best of yourselves, the world will never be different. This is the challenge."

For the full transcript of this talk: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2016/>

Are you lost or found?

Have you ever lost something that was of value to you? Remember the frantic search, and the relief when you recovered what was lost? Jesus tells parables in the Gospel we hear on September 11 that help us to appreciate how deeply God wants us to live as his children.



Whom do you serve?

Jesus tells the story of a steward who was not responsible with his master's belongings. We belong to God. We are called to be good stewards who serve God above all things. "You cannot serve both God and mammon" is a strong statement upon which to reflect. Whom do you serve? God, or the trappings of wealth, seeking security in material things?

It is easy to get lost in today's world. We may lose ourselves in the pursuit of material security, surround ourselves with friends whose priority is worldly pleasure, or simply become complacent, not overtly doing wrong, but also not actively committing our lives and actions to what is right. In the parables of the lost sheep and the missing coin, Jesus helps us see three important aspects of the life of discipleship:

Notice that the sheep and coin were precious

"In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Lk 15:10)

to the one searching for them; in a similar and much more crucial way, we are precious to God;

God rejoices when we come to our senses and "are found." God seeks us out and is always ready for our return;

The shepherd and woman joyfully call together friends and neighbors when what was lost is found. We must also call upon others as we strive to live as disciples.

Belonging within the faith community strengthens our resolve to live our faith in daily lives, to continually deepen our commitment to Christ.

Impact this month

1. Make a log of your time for a week. How much time is spent in idle activity or simply wasting time? We need leisure, but are also called to use our time well.
2. Prayerfully ask Jesus to show you the ways you may grow in relationship with him, and how you might follow him more deeply.
3. If your reflection helped you see sinful patterns in your life, participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; make a renewed commitment to live as a disciple.