

A Call to Discipleship

Dearest sisters and brothers in Christ,

We all share the delicate balance of our humanity; uncertainty, upheaval, anxiety, stress and a myriad of emotions we may not be fully aware of but feel in our hearts. In our everyday lives, amid unexpected challenges like the endemic and economic uncertainty, we go about our days in ways once unimagined. How can we infuse a sense of certainty, peace and assurance within the chaos and uncertainty of our lives today, here and now? How may we expand our lives with the love, mercy and compassion in our hearts?

Let us take to heart the calling of being a disciple of Christ. The word **disciple** means someone who pledges to be a learner. It is a commitment and a process to undertake the learning, and as a Christian, a yearning to imitate Jesus to bring hope, love and peace to everyone!

Discipleship is more than a call; it is a lifestyle that is never to stop, that must never stop until we are called home to eternity with our Lord. It is the instigation and flow for the Christian life; it is our continual devotion, worship, learning, growth, and practice in Christ as Lord in all that we think, do and say. This is what the gospel of Mark is trying to teach us in Mark 6: 7-13. The gospel calls every believer to believe what Jesus believed, lived as Jesus lived, loved as Jesus loved, and serve as Jesus served. **Jesus said: "Follow Me"**

This is a call to be set apart, challenged, and adhere to the call and mission Christ gives us. A humble and graceful mission to love where we are, with what we can, to be generous and compassionate in the doing. Do as Jesus did. Meet everyone along your journey as if they were Jesus incarnate. What healing we could offer the world if we see through the eyes of hope, love, mercy, compassion and peace!

It all comes down to decisions. Let us make our faith real and impacting, relinquishing our pride so we can learn and grow and, in turn, teach others. Let us pray that we may please our Lord in our service to our brothers and sisters. Let us give thanks to God in our empathy for others, in the sharing of our resources, in our prayers for all who suffer, in our understanding and yearning to be Christ's disciple.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to do God's will; His good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:1-2).

Let us be peace, love, mercy and compassion, in all that we think, do and say. Let us find solace to be as Jesus will directs us and be a true disciple of our Lord, now and always. *Amen*

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