

Week II

JESUS CHRIST'S PERSONAL CALL TO US

“During the Second Week, it can be profitable to read some classic works or some biographies of holy men and women.”

Spiritual Exercises [100]

#1. FIRST MEDITATION

PART A. The call of an earthly leader--- This will help us to contemplate the call of Christ our divine leader.

Preparatory prayer: I ask the grace and help of the Lord God that all my intentions, actions and activities will be directed purely towards an increase in my serving and praising Him.

Composition of Self: Using Lk 8:1-3 as a reference imagine yourself walking along the road with

Jesus and those women and men accompanying Jesus. As you walk, listen to Jesus' words: "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I call you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father, I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruits, fruit that will last." (Jn 15:15-16)

Grace: I ask for the grace to respond *generously* to the call of Christ; not to disregard Christ's words but to hear them from my deepest being and commit my whole self with confidence to the enterprise of Christ (the furthering of God's realm of peace, justice and love on earth).

Points (*Ways of disposing oneself for the grace sought*):

- I imagine a human leader who in response to God's Spirit has lived out a clear response to life's situation and calls us to join in this life response.
- I hear the earthly leader speaking these words: "It is my will to overcome the evils of injustice and hate in the world and bring about peace and love and to free the oppressed of every kind. Therefore, those who wish to join me in this enterprise must be content with the same food, drink, clothing, etc., as mine. So too, they must work with me day and night etc., so that as they have had a share in the toil with me, afterwards, they may rejoice with me in our accomplishments."
- Consider what the answer of good persons would be to a leader so generous and noble minded, and consequently, if persons would refuse the invitation of such a leader, how justly they would deserve to be criticized by everyone, and looked upon as unworthy persons.

PART B. *The Call of Jesus Christ*--The second part of this exercise will consist in applying the example of the earthly leader mentioned above to Jesus Christ Lord according to the following points:

Points: - If such a invitation of an earthly leader deserves our attention, how much more worthy of

consideration is Jesus Christ, the divine leader. Imagine the whole world assembled before this Jesus Christ. To all Christ's summons goes forth, and to each one in particular Jesus addresses the words: "It is my will to redeem the whole world, and thus to enter into the glory of God. Therefore, those who wish to be with me and join me in this enterprise must be willing to labour with me, that by being with me in suffering, they may be with me in glory."

- This cause is so great, so noble, so good that I consider that all persons who have heart, judgment, and reason will offer themselves entirely to be with me in this work.

- Those who wish to give greater proof of their love, and to distinguish themselves in whatever shows greater love and service of the eternal Leader and God of all, will not only offer themselves entirely to Jesus and the work, but will act against their selfish desires and need for worldly recognition, and offer themselves totally to Jesus and the enterprise in words such as these:

Offering of Self to Christ

Eternal King of all things, in the presence of your infinite goodness, and of your glorious Mother, and of all the saints of heaven, this is the offering of myself which I make with your favour and help. I promise that it is my earnest desire and my thought-out choice, provided only it is for your greater service and praise, to be with You and to imitate You in enduring suffering for the sake of goodness and truth, even to being poor and hated by the world if it you will that I lead this sort of life.

Conclude with an Our Father.

Then, do your review of prayer and make your journal.

#2. SECOND MEDITATION of Jesus Christ's Personal Call to Us.

Part A:

- Recall great human leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Saint Joan of Arc, Pope John XXIII,

Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day, Cesar Chavez, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, John Paul II whomever ...

- In your own imagination describe your own ideal human leader and a program of action for today's world that would stir up your wholehearted commitment.

- Consider the response you ought to make to such a leader.

Part B:

- Continue with the points of the First Meditation.

You may wish to create your own *Offering of Self* or use the one given by St. Ignatius.

Conclude with an Our Father.

Then, do your review of prayer and make your journal.

#3. THIRD MEDITATION of Jesus Christ's Personal Call to Us.

Recall your *Reviews of Prayer* of #1 and #2 and focus on what moved you the most or what you wish to develop in the First or in the Second Meditation.

You may wish to read Jn 10:11-18 at the beginning of your prayer. Then continue with **Part A** and **Part B** of the **Meditation with Christ's Personal Call to us.**

Again you may wish to create your own *Offering of Self* to Jesus Christ.

Conclude with an Our Father.

Then, do your review of prayer and make your journal.

NOTE: The meditations are written out on the sheets above. The scripture passages below are to be

used ONLY if you are not getting the grace.

SCHEDULE:

DAY 1	FIRST MEDITATION	Lk 8:1-3
DAY 2	SECOND MEDITATION	Jn 10:1-18
DAY 3	THIRD MEDITATION	Jn 12:23-26
DAY 4	REPETITION	
DAY 5	FIRST MEDITATION	Jn 3:16-18
DAY 6	SECOND MEDITATION	Eph 1:3-14
DAY 7	FIRST AND SECOND MEDITATION	Jn 1:1-18;

Sunday is a day for community worship and family.

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