

Seeing with the Eyes of Jesus from the Cross

Grace: Ask for the grace to see and understand that which is important to Jesus and to value that which Jesus values.

Introduction:



Saint Ignatius envisioned that those who do the Spiritual Exercises will begin to see with the eyes of Jesus. This Exercise is a first attempt to get in touch with Jesus' values and His unique way of seeing the world.

In light of your reflections on Sin and God's forgiving love, Saint Ignatius believed that it is helpful to recall that Jesus died for your

sins. It was Jesus' commitment to free you from sin that held Him on the cross. The cross provides Jesus with a unique perspective. Imagine talking to Jesus as He is on the cross about His values, His commitments, and the people that are important to Him. Looking at Jesus and His decision to embrace the cross for your sake, how valuable, committed, and important are you to Jesus? What is your response to Jesus?

Throughout the Second Week, you will grow deeper in your understanding of what motivates Jesus. In many ways, this is a chance to figure out where your relationship with Jesus is currently at. There is no right place to be.

God sends Jesus to the world with an important mission. Look for the things that Jesus says and does that stand out to you. Read through the Scripture passages and find the passage that most speaks to your heart.

Go back and re-read the Scripture passage that seems to be most interesting to you. Underline the words that evoke feelings in you. What images come to mind as you read it? Perhaps you imagine Jesus asking you "Where is your treasure?" How do you answer such a question? How do you feel when Jesus asks you that question? Do you feel excited to be with Jesus or do you feel nervous and put on the spot?

In the second passage, Jesus seems to be a little demanding. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes that no one should turn back once they have started to follow Him? What excuses might you give to Jesus as to why you cannot commit yourself to following Him? What does Jesus say to you about those excuses?

In the third reading, who are the people that seem to be important to Jesus? Who are the people that are important to you? What do you think God is trying to tell you through the Scripture passage that you chose? Is there anything that Jesus might want you to change in your life? Are you willing to change it? After spending time in quiet reflection, write about your experience by completing the Spiritual Exercise Journal.

Nothing is more practical
than finding God, i.e.,
than falling in love
in a quite absolute final way.

What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination,
will affect everything.

It will decide
what will get you out of bed
in the morning,
what you will do
with your evenings,
how you spend
your weekends,
what you read,
who you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you
with joy and gratitude.

Fall in love,
stay in love,
and it will decide
everything.

Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

Luke 12:32-34 – “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”



Luke 9:57-62 – The Cost of Following Jesus - As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good bye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."



Luke 4:14-20 – Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

In these or similar words ... When I look at this Scripture reading, I think that there is no second guessing when it comes to me following Him. I can't say maybe in a little bit or let me do this first. I have to be ready for action when he tells me what he wants from me. It also says to me that I have to trust Him in the fact that he knows what is best for me even when it doesn't seem like it. I especially thought the line, "... there is no place for the Son of Man to lay His head," that He's in for the long haul. It reminds me of a road trip I had for my youth group when my youth pastor said absolutely no pit stops the whole way. This was while we were pulling away. The choice was I could either get off the bus or suck it up and have more fun later, even if it wasn't going to be as comfortable as I would have liked. I think that it is hard for me to see through the eyes of Jesus because he's thinking at God's level, so how do I comprehend that? He could help us understand God because he's fully divine and fully human. I think this passage is saying that choosing Jesus isn't a 'maybe' decision, it's an absolute 'yes' or 'no' and I have to choose. An example from the Bible is Jesus didn't say maybe I'll give up my life on the cross for the sins of the world. He said I'm going to do it no matter what.



Practicing What You Preach ... To better understand Jesus' values, spend some time serving others and sacrificing your time by volunteering at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter. Reflect on how working with the disadvantaged may help you to see more and more with the eyes of Jesus.

