

I am writing this devotion rather than sharing it as a video, because reading, sacred reading, is another discipline. The visual is good. But, reading allows us to stop, reflect, process and pray at our own pace.

As you read, I would ask you to think about this question, “What do you want?”

The very first thing Jesus asked his soon to be disciples was, “What are you looking for?” (John 1:38)

Over and over, Jesus would ask people about their desires:

“What is it that you want?” (Matthew 20:21)

“What do you want me to do for you?” (Mark 10:36)

“Do you want to get well?” (John 5:6)

What do you want? What are you looking for deep down? It is not beyond Jesus to use moments like those surrounding us these days, to bring us face to face with this question; “what do you want?”

He does not ask this because He is some genie in a bottle. He asks this question to invite us into a conversation with Him. One of my favorites of how He does this is found in John 4 and the Samaritan woman at the well. Then, there is His eight mile walk with two men on their way to Emmaus.

Jesus is a master at using our desires or our doubts to draw us into a deeper reflection that drills down to the core issues of life itself. In order for this to happen, He intentionally hangs out with people, you and me included, who want something. But, He doesn’t leave us there. He is a master at revealing the hole in a person’s heart and life, that only He can fill.

When you look at His life, most of His deepest conversations with people get at two things;

1. The root of a person’s desire
2. An invitation to a practice or a discipline that makes room for God who alone can fill that void.

Martha finds her worth in serving but Jesus redirects her to attend to the first priority – Him.

The rich young man wants eternal life, but his security and identity are wrapped up in his wealth. Jesus asks him to reorder his priorities.

The disciples hunger for a closer connection to God and they ask Jesus for help. He offers them a spiritual practice to learn and do that we of course know as The Lord’s Prayer.

For centuries the church has linked the desire for more of God to intentional practices or disciplines in one’s faith. These practices do not give “spiritual brownie points.” They are not a marker of being a

better Christian. Just the opposite, they are present because we admit that we are weak in certain areas of our walk.

Over the last few weeks, I have focused on some of these practices – solitude, meditation, rest, prayer.....

The intent of these practices is make room for God who alone can fill the emptiness and weariness of the heart and soul.

What do you want? What is the hole or the void in your life and heart?

Jesus says “Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
(Matthew 11:28-29)

Let us learn from Him. Let us follow in His steps and learn those daily practices that make room for Him and the rest that He offers to our souls.