

"Have I Been With You?"
Personal Prayer for Young Disciples
A Primer
COMING SOON

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them... Now is the time to say to Jesus: 'Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace.'"

– Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

This *Primer for Young Disciples* is meant to prompt a new and living experience of prayer that will assist the young person who wants to know some of the "how to" begin praying. Coming to know is always a personal learning, and learning how He has been with us so long is the soul of discipleship. This primer was written to encourage the kind of prayer that is more of a response to the presence and love of Jesus, instead of another task in the day, another thing one has to learn to do, a mysterious technique one needs to master. What follows with each piece of the booklet's Scriptural teaching is a moment to pause and pray. The questions invite you to begin listening. Be silent with this booklet. The fruit of silence is prayer, and the prayer is already happening in you. Are you courageous enough to listen and let Jesus be with you – in everything?

Excerpt from the new booklet...

Finding our vocation will not make us happy. Being with Jesus makes us happy. Spending time with God makes us happy. Receiving God's companionship in every moment of the day makes us happy. Our vocation comes out of this relationship of love. If we try to figure out our vocation, or we approach prayer with an attitude of using prayer so as to obtain something:

"I need to pray, so that I can figure out my vocation."

"I must pray, so that I may accomplish more in life."

"I should pray, so that I can start feeling better about myself."

Prayer is not simply a means to an end. If prayer permits friendship with Jesus, and we would never want to use a friend, then we would be wise to let go of the attitudes that seem like we are maintaining a useful friendship. I pray, "so that..." sounds much like – "I'll spend time with you, so that I can become a better person." This attitude robs us of the delight of true friendship. If we approach prayer with attitudes about its "usefulness," we can seriously miss the gift of being in relationship. Friendship will change us, but only generous love motivates true friends.

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