

you, today, how could you, in some small way, begin to “think like Jesus”?

Saturday, 3/21/09 – Read Romans 8:26-30

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Spiritual transformation is never something we muster out of our own resources. It is a divine process in the human soul. Spiritual transformation is God’s work, not ours. The Spirit of God is constantly at work within us, nudging us toward God’s dream for us. The Spirit “helps us in our weakness.” ... Take some time today in your prayer to ask God’s Spirit for help. Maybe pray something like this: “Sweet Spirit of God, blow away the cobwebs of my self-preoccupation and lead me toward the transformed life. I cannot do this, but your strength is sufficient. I trust you to guide me. Amen.”

Sunday, 3/22/09 – Read Matthew 21:28-32

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Jesus tells of two sons. One son says “yes” but does “no.” The other says “no” first and then later does “yes.” ... Discernment -- identifying God’s will for us, discovering God’s call to us -- doesn’t always happen instantly. Sometimes it takes awhile. Sometimes we have to live with the idea for a time before we can see clearly that this is God’s call. ... Has that happened for you? Maybe you thought of something you might do, but it was only as you lived with that idea for awhile that you realized it was God calling you? What’s been your experience?

My Faith Journal, March 15, 2009

Experiencing Call #7

BrainWorks

What do I hear God saying to me today?

Discernment comes as result of ... (Romans 12:1-2)

Transformed by the renewal of mind (Romans 12:2)

Think like Jesus (Philippians 2:5-11)

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.

Discernment 3: Transformation

Monday, 3/16/09 – Read John 3:1-15

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: Discernment is the ability to discriminate between what IS God’s call to me and what is not. Sometimes discernment simply comes as a gift. Sometimes it is the result or the outcome of spiritual transformation. This week, let’s engage the process of spiritual growth and transformation. ... Today’s reading is the well-known dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus -- in which Jesus insists on spiritual transformation, that is being born “from above.” How do you think of spiritual transformation? How would you describe this spiritual birth that Jesus speaks of?

Tuesday, 3/17/09 – Read Mark 5:1-20

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Today’s reading is one of the stranger accounts of a healing by Jesus. Whatever you make of the details of the story (let’s not get stuck in those details), let’s focus our attention on the change in this man. Compare the descriptions of him in verses 2-5 and in verse 15. ... Have you ever felt “out of your mind”? Have you ever felt like you were caught in an endless cycle of destructive behaviors? Do you think that God, that Jesus can bring us to our “right mind”? Jot down your thoughts.

Wednesday, 3/18/09 – Read Luke 7:36-50

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The woman in today’s reading is identified as “a sinner.” We’re not told about her sin. It could

have been something significant. Or it could have been ritual infractions -- that is, not abiding by the strict dietary regulations. Whatever her sin, focus your attention on her behavior at the dinner. ... Jesus connects her changed behavior with having been forgiven. ... What’s your experience? Does being forgiven alter behavior? Is forgiveness part of spiritual transformation? How has that happened for you?

Thursday, 3/19/09 – Read Luke 19:1-10

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Have you ever felt invisible? Have you ever felt like no one noticed you, no one really saw you for who you are? Maybe Zacchaeus felt invisible. As a tax collector he was surely despised as a collaborator with the Roman army of occupation in First Century Palestine. But Jesus notices Zacchaeus. Jesus stops and pays attention to him. Right now Jesus is noticing you. Right now Jesus is stopping to pay attention to you. Talk with him now for a few moments. ... For you, what is the effect of realizing that Jesus is attending to you?

Friday, 3/20/09 – Read Philippians 2:5-11

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Philippians 2:5 is better translated (literally) as “Think like Jesus.” ... Today’s reading describes the way Jesus thinks -- his attitudes and values. ... How different this is from the way we’re taught. We’re encouraged to take care of ourselves, to look out for number one. Jesus, though, doesn’t cling to his rightful superiority but “empties himself.” ... One of the main reasons that spiritual transformation doesn’t happen is our natural human inclination to focus our attention on “me” and “mine.” ... For