

Becoming More Like Jesus in the Gospel of Luke

Introduction:

You are about to ... slowly and purposefully ... read/meditate through a portion of the Gospel of Luke, beginning at Chapter 4.

In your imagination you choose one of the following:

- #1. You are Luke's scribe ... you are both on the scene for every event and he dictates to you what he wants written in his Gospel. You get to see it all firsthand.

- #2. You are a casual believer with a good heart ... but you have never read from the Bible. All you know about Jesus is from hearsay. You are looking to grow in the Faith. You are also on the scene following Luke as He goes ... listening and watching.

- #3. You are a A/G minister on your first (???) retreat. You are here knowing that you've not been all that the Lord wants of you. You hope this retreat will open your eyes and motivate you forward. In your imagination you also are present on the scene throughout.

Exercise:

Your retreat director tells you that the purpose of this Exercise is to lead you to discover (and inscribe in your journal) some ways wherein you might **Become More Like Jesus** ... *during the course of the next 12 months.*

As you move through the Gospel you are to carefully consider every word spoken by Jesus ... every action taken by Jesus. And in the process you ask yourself, *“Were I actually on the scene at the time would I have said (or attempted to say) what Jesus said? or “Were I actually on the scene at the time would I have done (or attempted to do) what Jesus did?”*

Then ... wherever you believe you would have ...

- * spoken differently than Jesus (or not spoken)
- * acted differently than Jesus (or not acted)

you make a brief note in your journal (listing also the chapter and verse).

So you start ... slowly and carefully (reading and meditating as you go) ... beginning at chapter 4, verse 1 ... being present in your imagination in each scene ... and placing the notations you need in your journal along the way.

You have no plan to get through any particular number of chapters.

You proceed at a leisurely pace, taking time out for breaks, snacks, etc. ... not concerned as to the time given to the exercise.

At the end (of however many chapters you decide to cover) you carefully review your journal notations ... seek out the Holy Spirit’s to help ... and ask yourself this question:

*“Where might I reasonably expect to be able to change my spoken words or actions in the course of the next 12 months ... and hence better **Become More Like Jesus?**”*

You are not looking for a long list here. Lasting change most often comes slowly.

Director’s Note:

You might remember a somewhat similar Exercise (using the Gospel of Mark) as included in the 2020 retreat. I myself made that retreat virtually while in Florida and learned something that I want to pass along to you.

In the Exercise I went through 6 chapters of Mark spending about 2 hours doing so. In the end I had more than two dozen journal notations. I was struck as to *how often* my words and actions differed from Jesus'. I gave considerable thought to that in the aftermath.

For myself, I recognized these 3 things that would help me going forward:

#1. I need to **be more sensitive** to the opportunities I find myself in ... better recognizing that a situation calls for something from me.

Really ... in every situation ... I need to have the mindset that I'm readily available to speak or to do ... as Jesus would have me.

#2. I need to **have an awareness** of Jesus' expected response from me.

Usually I *know it* ... but don't always readily bring it to mind (due to distractions, busyness, laziness, etc.).

#3. Finally (and this is a big one), I need to **have the desire** to speak/do in the situation presented to me.

Postscript

[And, of course, this Exercise is what Ignatius' Section II is all about. We want to closely examine the public life of Jesus (up to the Passion) ... with the specific intent of having God show us that "picture" of what He intends our life to **look like** in the years yet to come.]

Before We Begin, We Pray:

*"Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit, You Who live within me ...
YOU ... move in my life now ...
make of me an imitator of Jesus in whatever area You see fit."*

