

## **“Becoming More Like Jesus Via the Use of My Imagination”**

### **Introduction:**

*“Those like myself whose imagination far exceeds their obedience are subject to a just penalty; we easily imagine conditions far higher than any we have really reached.*

*If we describe what we have imagined we may make others, (and in fact ourselves), believe that we have really been there.*

***(In the end) all mortals tend to turn into the thing (the person) they are imagining themselves to be.”***

C.S.Lewis

Retreat founder Ignatius would have gotten along well with Lewis - both strongly believing that the God-given gift of imagination actually had the power to change behavior.

### **Exercise:**

In this Exercise I will attempt (using my imagination) to actually “enter into” the scenes of Jesus’ Passion and Death. I will imagine myself as being right there on the scene as it happened 2000 years ago.

In the process I pray that the Holy Spirit help me to do two things:

**#1.** To somehow ... *feel* ... what Jesus was feeling (not only physically, but emotionally as well). This may seem like a tall order ... but by moving slowly and carefully it is possible to some extent.

**#2.** To continue to “paint that picture” as to how my life might better imitate Jesus’ life in the years ahead. As I “see” and “feel” what was going on in each scene I asked the Holy Spirit to make clear to me how I might become a better imitator.

Two alternatives are presented for my meditation:

**#1.** I select one of the 4 Gospel accounts. Then I determine whose “shoes I want to fill” in my imagination as I move through the account. I tell myself that for this meditation, “***I am that person.***” (And I do my best to actually believe that.)

[It can be any of the individuals in the Gospel account (although preferably not Jesus). I might also consider being either 1) the writer of the Gospel account I am using (as he takes careful notes along the way) ... or 2) a nondescript onlooker who is present and follows what is happening in each scene.

**#2.** For my meditation I select the attached, “*Remember me.*” This is an imaginative account of what (might have) occurred with one of the two thieves crucified with Jesus. (His name is David.) This account was taken from the book, Loving God, written by Charles Colson many years ago.

Selecting this, “***I will be David***” as I move through this meditation. (And I do my best to actually believe that.) All the events of Jesus’ Passion and Death are now to be seen and felt through the person of David.