

# *Scripture Reflections Becoming a Disciple*



## *Reflection One*

### **Scripture Reading**

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins...When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relationship with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus." (Matthew 1:20-22, 24-25)

### **Reflection**

Joseph is one amazing man. The Gospel of Matthew chooses to tell us about his "yes" to God rather than Mary's. The key phrase that the angel shares in Joseph's dream is, "do not be afraid." We can not be afraid when we hear the call to discipleship.

### **Prayer**

Holy God, give us the courage of Joseph. Give us the trust and the faith to say yes, and to be your instruments, in whatever way that is, to bring the Good News to all people. Amen.

## *Reflection Two*

### **Scripture Reading**

The angel said to her "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God...nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1: 30, 37)

### **Reflection**

Come, participate in God's life! In fact, God wants you to participate so fully that he has chosen you to be the mother of his Son!  
Wow. What an invitation. God is inviting us to allow Jesus to be born in us. This is the invitation to discipleship.

### **Prayer**

Holy Lord, help us respond to your invitation to let your Son live in us and work through us for the salvation of the world. Amen.

## *Reflection Three*

### **Scripture Reading**

"Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

### **Reflection**

How was Mary to know what lay in store for her? Could she ever have imagined that one day she would be standing at the foot of her son's cross,

witnessing his death? We don't know where the road of discipleship will lead us, but we say "yes" nonetheless.

#### **Prayer**

God, nothing is impossible with you. We pray for the faith to say "yes" to all that you want us to be and to become. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us. Teach us what it means to become a disciple of your Son. Amen.

## *Reflection Four*

#### **Scripture Reading**

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." (Luke 1:42-45)

#### **Reflection**

Can't you just feel, deep down, Elizabeth's joy at Mary's news? From the womb, Elizabeth's baby (John) leaps for joy! From the womb, he already is doing discipleship....and will soon be preparing others to listen to Jesus' Word.

#### **Prayer**

God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for your Son, Jesus. By the grace of your Spirit, may we be ready for his coming, by accepting his call to be faithful followers of the Good News today. Amen.

## *Reflection Five*

#### **Scripture Reading**

"And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." (Luke 1:46)

#### **Reflection**

"My soul magnifies the Lord." I think it is important to look at what the first disciple, Mary, has to say after she has accepted God's invitation to be the mother of his Son. Her soul magnifies the Lord. Because of her "yes," the Lord is *more* visible, *more* present.

#### **Prayer**

Wondrous God, today we pray that like Mary, our souls "magnify the Lord." Amen.

## *Reflection Six*

#### **Scripture Reading**

"As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea – for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called to them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. "(Matthew 4:18-22)

#### **Reflection**

I wonder about the "immediately" in this passage. Did they really dash off with Jesus? Who wants to leave the security of the known for the unknown? This makes their acceptance of Jesus' call to

discipleship all the more profound. They really had no idea what was in store, yet they too said “yes.”

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we can become comfortable in our complacency. We know that discipleship demands much of us. Give us the strength to leave old ways behind. Bless our efforts to say “yes.” Amen.

## *Reflection Seven*

### **Scripture Reading**

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. (Luke 5:10-11)

### **Reflection**

Peter had no doubt he was in the presence of someone extraordinary. Jesus had just helped him catch a boatload of fish. But leave everything behind? He needed a bit of reassurance (sound familiar?) – and Jesus gives it to him in the phrase repeated frequently in the Gospels, “Do not be afraid.”

### **Prayer**

Dear Jesus, help us to let go of our fear of what following you will mean for our lives. We believe that you are always with us, guiding us. Amen.

