

*Reminders and Resources for the summer 2025 Homily Series*

**Marks of Discipleship**

Week One — Presence

To be a **disciple of Jesus** means we are his students — we embrace his teachings, which are found in the four Gospels of the Bible; that is the curriculum.

A disciple also commits to **the mission** of the teachings given by their teacher.

Being a disciple of Jesus is not just a belief, such as “I believe in God,” rather it is a **belief tied to action**.

Disciples of Jesus are called to align their lives to the Gospel values, **to imitate Jesus’** way of loving, praying, serving, forgiving, showing compassion, and working for justice.

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To be a healthy and effective disciple, we need to **practice being present**.

To be present we need to **be where our feet are**, rather than lost in our mind ruminating over the past or worrying about the future. Be aware of the moment at hand.

In the Christian context, practicing presence is about **experiencing God**. When we are present to God we are connected and open to what he wants to communicate to us.

Practicing presence can be as simple as **listening**. It’s a contemplative, receptive posture. This position is counter-cultural in a society with so many distractions.

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Gospel Connection (Luke 10:38-42): Martha is preoccupied with serving Jesus and other guests, while her sister Mary is focused on listening to and **learning from Jesus**. When Martha complains about this Jesus says “Mary has chosen the better part.”

*Jesus did not say Martha’s actions were wrong or bad. He simply said what Mary was doing was the higher priority. Mary chose to pause and be present to Jesus. She put first things first by making time to listen to him. As disciples, this must also be our first commitment. Everything flows from how present we are to God.*

**To cultivate more presence** in our lives, we can look at what Jesus did to practice his own spirituality. There are multiple times in the Gospels where Jesus went away to pray. When we stop and listen to God, we are led to informed action and wisdom.

Challenge: Try listening to God for just five minutes at the start of every day and see what happens. Spend more time as a human **being** not a human “doing.”

“A disciple is someone who has believed the message of the Gospel, responded to the call of God in repentant faith, been baptized and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is seeking to understand and obey all that Jesus taught his first disciples.” (Matt 28:19)  
— C.S. Lewis Institute

“True spirituality is not a search for perfection or control or the door to the next world; it is a search for divine union now.” — Richard Rohr, OFM

Discipleship to Jesus Christ is “the greatest opportunity individual human beings have in life and the only hope corporate mankind has of solving its insurmountable problems” — Dallas Willard

For further reading:

- *The Way of the Heart* by Henri Nouwen
- *Conversation with Christ* by Peter Thomas Rohrbach
- *The Naked Now* by Richard Rohr
- *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young
- *The Power of Now* by Eckhart Tolle
- *Invitation to Solitude and Silence* by Ruth Haley Barton
- *The Divine Milieu* by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

**Let Your God Love You**

By Edwina Gateley

Be silent.  
Be still.  
Alone.  
Empty  
Before your God.  
Say nothing.  
Ask nothing.  
Be silent.  
Be still.  
Let your God look upon you.  
That is all.  
God knows.  
God understands.  
God loves you  
With an enormous love,  
And only wants  
To look upon you  
With that love.  
Quiet.  
Still.  
Be.  
Let your God—  
Love you.