

Biblical Reflections on Christian Discipleship

The Prayer Saint Francis of Assisi before the Crucifix

Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me
true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out
Your holy and true command. Amen.

Discipleship and Discernment

Genesis 3: 1-15	Where are you? Who told you that?
1 John 4: 1-6	Discerning the Spirits
John 2: 1-11	Reading the Signs

Examples of Failed Discipleship

Matthew 16: 13-23	Faulty Understanding of the Son of Man
Mark 16: 1-20	Failed Disciples Nonetheless Commissioned at Table
Matthew 26: 26-29	Four Eucharistic Actions (and Mark 14: 22-25, Luke 22: 15-20, Luke 24: 13-35, Matthew 14: 13-21, Matthew 15: 32-39, Mark 6: 30-44, Mark 8: 1-9, Luke 9: 12-17, John 6: 1-14, 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26)
Luke 24: 13-35	Eucharist as Stimulus of Recovering Discipleship

Portraits of Beloved Discipleship

John 4: 4-42	The Samaritan Woman
John 9: 1-41	The Man Born Blind
John 11: 1-44	Martha of Bethany
John 20: 24-29	My Lord and My God
John 21: 1-25	The Rehabilitation of Peter

Discipleship from Call to Conversion

The Phenomenon of God's Call

1. The **crisis** in which God confronts His chosen one
2. The **commissioning** of that person for some action or message
3. The **objections** raised by the one chosen in the form of inadequacy for the task
4. The **assurance** of God's help, often in the formula *I will be with you*
5. The **sign** that confirms the commission, often with the content of the commission

Exodus 3: 1-17	The Call of Moses
Judges 6: 11-24	The Call of Gideon
1 Samuel 3: 2-14	The Call of Samuel
Isaiah 6: 1-13	The Call of Isaiah
Jeremiah 1: 3-16	The Call of Jeremiah
Acts 9: 1-19	The Call and Conversion of Saul

The Problem of Moses

Exodus 4: 1 “But,” objected Moses, “suppose they do not believe me or listen to me? For they may say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you.’” 2 The LORD said to him: What is in your hand? “A staff,” he answered. 3 God said: Throw it on the ground. So he threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and Moses backed away from it. 4 Then the LORD said to Moses: Now stretch out your hand and take hold of its tail. So he stretched out his hand and took hold of it, and it became a staff in his hand. 5 That is so they will believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, did appear to you. 6 Again the LORD said to him: Put your hand into the fold of your garment. So he put his hand into the fold of his garment, and when he drew it out, there was his hand covered with scales, like snowflakes. 7 Then God said: Put your hand back into the fold of your garment. So he put his hand back into the fold of his garment, and when he drew it out, there it was again like his own flesh. 8 If they do not believe you or pay attention to the message of the first sign, they should believe the message of the second sign. 9 And if they do not believe even these two signs and do not listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry land. The water you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry land. 10 Moses, however, said to the LORD, “If you please, my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and tongue.” 11 The LORD said to him: Who gives one person speech? Who makes another mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? 12 Now go, I will assist you in speaking* and teach you what you are to say. 13 But he said, “If you please, my Lord, send someone else!” 14 Then the LORD became angry with Moses and said: I know there is your brother, Aaron the Levite, who is a good speaker; even now he is on his way to meet you. When he sees you, he will truly be glad. 15 You will speak to him and put the words in his mouth. I will assist both you and him in speaking and teach you both what you are to do. 16 He will speak to the people for you: he will be your spokesman, and you will be as God to him. 17 Take this staff in your hand; with it you are to perform the signs.

19 Then the LORD said to Moses in Midian: Return to Egypt, for all those who sought your life are dead. 20 So Moses took his wife and his sons, mounted them on the donkey, and started back to the land of Egypt. Moses took the staff of God with him.

24 On the journey, at a place where they spent the night, the LORD came upon Moses and sought to put him to death. 25 But Zipporah took a piece of flint and cut off her son’s foreskin and, touching his feet, she said, “Surely you are a spouse of blood to me.” 26 So God let Moses alone. At that time she said, “A spouse of blood,” in regard to the circumcision.