

Following Jesus sometimes presents very tough choices. And our gospel for this Sunday gives us a text with some very harsh admonitions. How do we pay attention to them?

We know there are diverse ways of participating in the life of Jesus. The apostles travelled with him as friends and colleagues; the good Samaritans of today offer cups of water to the ragged and weary under a bridge in Texas.

Our Carmelite ancestors sought for purity of heart in their following of Jesus and their varieties of mendicant service. This was the way of our St. Therese, whose feast is celebrated this coming week. She lived a life of attention to the smallest acts demanded by love, the hidden, the unchosen... So we pray:

Dear God, we are called to enter your wider vision of inclusion and acceptance. In the words of Moses in our first reading tomorrow: Would that all people of the Lord were prophets. Give us abundant grace to answer your call with our hearts, our existence, our bodies, our work---all taken up within the boundaries of your loving freedom. In the words of the poet:

Fill us as the rushing water overflows the pitcher,
Fill us as light fills a room,
Let your silence still us
And out of that stillness let us rise and praise you, our God
In all of creation, in all of life.

Amen.