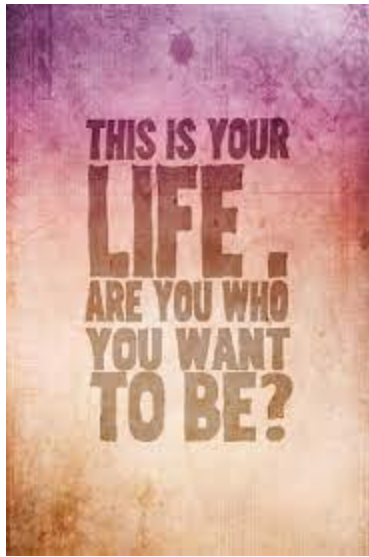




Who Inspires You To Serve Like Jesus?

"Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones." (John 14:12)

In this Gospel, John describes Jesus speaking with the apostles about his relationship to the Father. As the apostles seek understanding, Jesus articulates in multiple ways how he is related to the Father. Jesus affirms their connection by saying: *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6) This assertion might suggest that Jesus is only a conduit to connect to the Father. But Jesus further explains that the Father is in him and he is in the Father. *If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."* (John:14:7) Moreover, all of Jesus' actions are works of the Father. These actions include the powerful signs that frame John's Gospel (e.g., healing the man born blind, raising Lazarus) as well as his crucifixion and resurrection. These Gospel scriptures provide some of the biblical evidence for understanding the relationship between the entities of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).

It is also important that John connects belief in Jesus to Christian mission, saying, *"Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones."* (John 14:12) Foundational to Christian faith is the requirement for believers to serve one another as an expression of their belief in God. The first and second readings provide examples of Christian faith in action.

Moving to a more personal point of "Who Inspires You To Serve Like Jesus", I say to you that you need to do some personal introspection (looking inside) to see who you really are. Are you living "on the cusp" of Christianity (only when you need it) or are you living your Christian life daily (Christ with and in you always)? This is your life and God wants you to have a good, loving, prosperous life making good choices. But he also wants to be a vital part of those choices. Almighty God, through Jesus Christ is who every Christian must serve Jesus Christ first. He must be your inspiration.

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