

**Jesus Wants Disciples, Not Just Admirers:** *“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”* St Theresa of Avila

What Jesus wants is disciples, not just admirers. Jesus taught people, healed the sick, comforted the poor and sorrowful, fed the hungry-had compassion for them, raised the dead to life, ate with tax collectors and sinners forgave their sins, and confronted the Pharisees and Scribes, etc. We should do the same things: We should become teachers, preachers, healers, comforters, providers, life givers, forgivers, and non-judgmental friends to the less-than-pious. Of-course, our present world needs more of such people to make this world a peaceful and better place for all to live. There are many who admire Jesus for who He is and what He did, but lack in living what He calls us to. Many fail to act on his command “go and do likewise.” (Lk 10:37) We imitate Jesus when we try to do things for the same reasons He did. In this view, imitation is carrying on the actions of Jesus. Moreover, in doing this, we enter an authentic relationship with Jesus and with those for whom we do these things; because Jesus is not a religion but a relationship. When we live and do things for the love of Jesus and others, then all we do and our sacrifice is acceptable to God. When we share our time, talent and treasure with the less fortunate filled with a generous heart, we receive manifold in return by a generous God. Without a doubt, God blesses the generous giver. And truly, it’s in giving that we receive, thus living is giving. Wherever we go, the Lord Jesus wants us to bring the good news and blessings of his kingdom to as many people as we can. Jesus calls us the salt of the earth. He wants us to bring the flavor of his goodness and holiness into every area of society we are engaged in. Jesus calls us the light of the world. He wants us to make him known and loved by helping people to see the radiance of his love and truth and the beauty of his kingdom. That is why Jesus continues to commission his followers throughout every age to “make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19). A disciple of Jesus is a dedicated follower and learner who commits to his teachings, emulates his life, and carries out his mission. Thus, all baptized are chosen, consecrated and commissioned to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.

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