



# Generative Discipleship

## The Deeper Invitation of Jesus *Principles for a Generative Discipleship*

### Part I ~ Reflection Questions

- 1) What was your experience of struggling “to get your life together?”
- 2) How does your family “carry the faith?”
- 3) We are not a contemplative culture. So many things demand our attention at one time. Can you name some ways in which the culture has been a “narcotic” for you?
- 4) In what ways can you increase your experience of living an examined life?
- 5) In some way all of us are immature. Before God, can you name your “present immaturities?”
- 6) “When Jesus looks at you, it is always a look of love.” What is your reaction to this statement?
- 7) To become a great disciple, you must fight the battle of resentment and bitterness. What has been your experience of “doing good works, but being resentful?”
- 8) Fr. Rolheiser recounts the story of the priest’s support group. How do you compensate in your life? food? drink? clothes? technology?
- 9) What part of your life have you kept from God?
- 10) You cannot change your life only by will-power, although it is good. You also need God’s grace. What would you like to change in your life? Take a moment and ask God for the grace to help you.

### Part II ~ Reflection Questions:

What are your experiences in regard to these questions from Karl Rahner, SJ?—

- 1) Have you ever kept silent despite the urge to defend your self when you were treated unfairly?
- 2) Have you ever forgiven another person although you gained nothing by it, and your forgiveness was accepted as quite natural?
- 3) Have you ever made a sacrifice without receiving any thanks or acknowledgement, without even feeling any kind of inward satisfaction?
- 4) Have you ever decided to do a thing simply for the sake of conscience, knowing that you bear sole responsibility for your decision without being able to explain it to anyone?
- 5) Have you ever tried to act purely for love of God when no warmth sustained you, and when your act seemed like a leap in the dark—purely nonsense?
- 6) Have you ever been good to someone without expecting a trace of gratitude, without the comfortable feeling of having been unselfish?
- 7) When you get older, you know there will be days when you want to walk away from your commitment. Short range it looks like death, but long range this is what is going to bring you life. When have you had the experience of staying in a commitment although you wanted to walk away?



8) In a life crisis, don't ask the question: What do you really *want to do here*? Ask the better question: What do you *have to do here*? Peter wanted to walk away from Jesus, but he knew he couldn't walk away from Jesus. Our faith center teaches us what we have to do. Our head tells us what's smart to do; the heart, what you want to do, your gut, and your faith tells you what you have to do.

9) "Be perfect as your father is perfect" is the Greek translation. The Hebrew translation is "*be compassionate as your father is compassionate*." God loves us whether we are good or bad. God just loves. God is compassionate, not a violent God. God forgives. When have you been able to you give up your right and your need to be right, and to act compassionately?

10) In the garden, Jesus asks Mary: What are you looking for? Jesus pronounces her name in love: "Mary." What gives meaning to our life is to hear God pronounce our name in love. Take a moment each day to pray as the beloved disciple, and listen in the silence to hear God say to you: "I love you."

11) What are your thoughts on the poem by D.H. Lawrence?

*I'm not a machine, an assembly of various sections.*

*It is not because the mechanism is working wrongly that I am sick.*

*I am sick because of wounds to the soul, to the deep emotional self.*

*And wounds to the soul take a long, long time.*

*Only time can help, and patience, and a certain difficult repentance.*

*Long, difficult repentance, a realization of life's mistake, and freeing one's self from that endless repetition of a mistake that humankind at large has chosen to sanctify.*

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