



Lord, when did we see you hungry

MATTHEW 25:37

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2024

“FINDING CHRIST”

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When Jesus invites us to look to the margins to see him more clearly (cf. Mt 25), we naturally ask the question: “What margins?” These are the places in our peripheral vision in life, the locations where we often forget to look and that lie just outside our regular field of view. More importantly, we can find ourselves forgetting about the people who occupy those oft-forgotten spaces.

It can be easy to find Christ reflected in the familiar and the explicitly sacred. Yet for young adults, now is an opportune time in life to practice finding Christ in the margins: in the faces of the people who live and breathe and move just beyond or outside our regular routines.

What follows is a discernment tool that offers some initial questions that can lead a person to discover their own peripheries and the people they may overlook or take for granted.

- What does your normal daily or weekly routine look like? It may be helpful to write it out.
- Where do you travel on a normal basis (by foot, by car, by public transportation, etc.)? What neighborhoods, communities, or locations do you pass by throughout your day?
- Who are the people you encounter regularly? Family? Friends? Colleagues or co-workers?
- With these questions in mind, can you then identify the places you visit along the way, but do not stay too long (i.e., the gas station, the grocery store, the coffee shop, etc.)? Can you picture in your mind the individuals you meet in those spaces, but who you do not engage with for more than a few minutes at most? Bring them to mind in a prayer of thanksgiving.

- Within those marginal spaces, who do you envision might be similar to the groups Jesus mentions in his parable of the end times (Mt 25)?
 - Who are those who go hungry? Who has no shelter or are likely one paycheck away from eviction? Who are those who are suffering from physical or mental health issues? Who may struggle with crime and incarceration? Who are those of advanced age: the elderly, the infirm, the grandparents, or those facing terminal illness?
- Who do you think about during the regular giving seasons and holidays (such as Thanksgiving or Christmas) but don't think about in the other months of the year?
- Take time to reflect on the people who you encounter in work or school who you pass by, perhaps only going as far as offering a quick "hello" or wave of the hand. Who do you see frequently but barely know their names? Again, bring them to mind with prayerful gratitude.

As you work through these discernment questions, you may be able to find Christ hidden in peripheral areas, and in so doing, allow the Lord to engage you in the margins of your life.