

COME, FOLLOW ME!

Story of a lost vocation

Intent of the poem.

- ✓ *Generosity is wanted to follow God's call.*
- ✓ *To follow Jesus, implicit trust is required.*

O Lord of my life!
Long did I yearn to hear your voice!

At last – O blessed day!
I heard you say:
"Come follow me".

Athirst like a deer panting
For the refreshing waters of living springs.
I harkened to your call.

I bespoke to myself
I will go,
Wherever my Lord leads me.

As I followed you, Lord,
I saw much other ardent soul
Tread the self same path.
Past field and forest,

You led us up the soaring heights.
Quick and light were our steps
And buoyant our hearts
As, tolling upward,
We followed you, Lord.

Suddenly we stood aghast
Before a yawning gorge
Cutting our path to journeys end!

You said: Fear not, I am with you.
Step forward! Come, follow me!
And you stepped forward over the abyss;

Horrified, I cried:
Lord, how can I cross this void?

But with unbending voice,
You replied:

Come, follow me!

Panic-stricken,
I sat me down
On the cliff's edge

I closed my eyes,
Bemoaning in despair I said
How can I, Lord? How can I?

At last , oh, cursed day!
I opened my eyes
And lo! And Behold!
Above and beyond,
On yonder summit,
The sight of my Lord,
Walking in joy,
With those who once had tread
The self same path with me!

*Inspired by the article:
"The Desert and Mountain experience"
of Marta Robbins*

Points for Reflection and Discussion

This script is a poetical description of the story of a frustrated vocation. In it we find a description all the steps of a lost vocation from start to finish, namely,

1. A longing to hear the call of the Master.
2. Joy at hearing the call.
3. Resolve to follow the Master, happen what may.
4. Joy experienced in the company of the Master and alike companions.. .
5. Unexpected difficulties encountered.
6. Fear and lack of courage.
7. Yet, the Master's command was clear: "Follow me".
8. Fear, questioning, wavering crept in.
9. Lack of sufficient trust in the Master.
10. Giving up.
11. Realization that others trusting in the Master surmounted the difficulties.
12. Regrets at the loss of one's vocation.

Questions: for Reflection and Discussion

Keeping the poem COME, FOLLOW ME as a background, lead the participants in reflection and discussion of the following points.

1. What is the meaning of vocation? (*A call and invitation from God to be with him and to do something for Him*)
2. What are dispositions necessary to listen and follow the call of God? (*Longing for it, readiness to listen to it. Attention, discernment, generosity*)
3. What are the requirements wanted to follow it? (*Ability, determination and resolve*)
4. How do those who generously follow their vocation feel? (*Happy, joyous, in the company others like themselves.*)
5. Will those who follow their vocation encounter difficulties on their path? Which? Mention a few of them. (*Opposition from people and family, discouragement, health, studies, temptations, misunderstandings, criticisms, disappointments, fears, apprehensions, doubts,, etc...*)
6. What does their Master' command them in those moments of crisis? (*"Come, follow me! Go ahead, trust in me, do not doubt, be firm, etc..."*)
7. In time of crisis, how did those called react to their Master's command? (*Some closing their eyes, in trust leapt into yawning gorge and followed Him, others closed their eyes, sat down and gave up*)
8. What was the outcome of their responses? (*Those who followed the Master, rejoiced; those who gave up, were sad and regretful*)

Closing Prayer Session.

- Give some time for silent reflection, and personal prayer.
- Read and comment on (Mk 10/17-31) **The Rich Young Man**. He went away sorrowing.
- Encourage shared prayer
- Pray for one another..
- Call the Hymn: **It Takes courage to Answer a Call** . Read it, Paraphrase it, Pray with it and finally sing it..