



HOMWORK ASSIGNMENT

1. Have students do either For Your Journal assignment (on p. 99 or on p. 102) as a homework assignment that will be handed in.
2. Assign reading for the next chapter section, “The Sermon on the Mount: Jesus, the New Moses” on pp. 102–112 for the next class session.

Love for Jesus is not a warm, fuzzy feeling. Love is difficult sometimes and includes Jesus' charge to love our enemies (see parable of the Good Samaritan, Lk 10:29–37). And in the parable of the last judgment (Mt 25:31–46), Jesus teaches that God will judge us based on the corporal works of mercy: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick and imprisoned (Mt 25:35–36). These actions involve love, too.

Loving as Jesus loves requires remaining close to him. We are not necessarily called to slavishly imitate him by living the life of a wandering preacher, giving away all our possessions, gathering disciples, and surrendering our lives via crucifixion. We are, however, called to be conformed to him, allowing him to live in us and teach us by power of the Holy Spirit.

In the Eucharist, Jesus has given us a way to grow in holiness and stay connected to him. The Eucharist—the sacrament of love—celebrates Jesus' Paschal mystery (his passion, death, resurrection, and glorification). Our celebration of it with other Catholic believers enables us to enter into the mystery it represents for us.

In the Liturgy of the Word, we hear Christ's Gospel proclaimed anew. It challenges us to take the good news to heart and live it in the present on our journey to the Triune God.

In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit prays through us as we thank and praise God the Father for all he has accomplished for us in Christ Jesus. We unite ourselves to Jesus, offer our lives to him, and re-enact and recall his sacrifice of love. In Holy Communion, our risen Lord comes to us under the forms of bread and wine. Jesus gives himself to us and dwells in us, as unworthy as we are. The divine life we received in Baptism is nurtured and strengthened in the Eucharist. Our Lord comes to us and unites us as children of his Father and brings us in union with himself as members of his body, the Church. Most remarkably, our union with the Lord in Holy Communion enables Christ to act in us, to affect our thinking and our behavior, and to help transform our lives into acts of love.

At the end of the Mass we are sent—fortified with the gifts of the Spirit and Christ's own life in us—in peace “to love and serve the Lord.”

“Union with Christ [in the Eucharist] is also union with all those to whom he gives himself. I cannot possess Christ just for myself; I can belong to him only in union with all those who have become, or who will become, his own. Communion draws me out of myself towards him and thus also towards unity with all Christians. We become ‘one body,’ completely joined in a single existence. Love of God and love of neighbor are now truly united: God incarnate draws us all to himself.”

—POPE BENEDICT XVI,
DEUS CARITAS EST
(GOD IS LOVE), No. 14



DO WHAT JESUS DID

In everything ask yourself only what the Master would have done, and do that.

—BLESSED CHARLES DE FOUCAULD

Anticipate how Jesus would solve the following problems. Check the Gospel passage given to see what he actually did for each situation.

- What to feel and do when confronted with an obvious injustice. (See Mk 3:3–5)
- What to do with a needy person. (See Mt 10:42)
- What to do after a busy day working for others. (See Mt 14:22–23)
- What to do when someone is being harshly criticized for a wrongdoing. (See Jn 8:3, 6–7, 9–11)
- What to do when someone repeatedly wrongs you. (See Mt 18:21–22)

Create five scenarios that you confront in your daily life that pose a moral issue. Search the Gospels to find out how Jesus might have responded. Put into practice Jesus' teaching for one of the scenarios you will most likely experience in the coming week.

Jesus as Moral Guide | 101

RESOURCES

Internet Resources

Covington, J. Steven. “Be Perfect: Is Jesus Demanding the Impossible? The Sermon on the Mount Is a Call To Be Fully Human”.

www.catholic.com/thisrock/1999/9909fea1.asp

Hardon, John A., S.J., “The Beatitudes: Generosity and Happiness”.

www.catholic.net/rcc/Periodicals/Faith/2001-10/hardon.html

—**“Gospel Morality”.**

www.catholic.net/RCC/Periodicals/Faith/0708-96/article2.html

Mastrantonis, Rev. George. “The Sermon on the Mount”.

An explanation from an Orthodox priest:

www.goarch.org/en/ourfaith/articles/article7110.asp

Sheen, Bishop Fulton J. “The Beatitudes and the Cross”.

www.ewtn.com/library/PROLIFE/BO18.TXT