

7) JESUS FORMS US INTO COMMUNITY

Read and Pray with Matthew 9:9-13 and Luke 5:1-11

As you pray with this passage, you might follow a technique that St. Ignatius Loyola recommends for people who are praying with the passages in Scripture that narrate events. That technique, called Ignatian Contemplation, is to imagine the scene in its details, even to the point of imagining that you are one of the people in the event. Or you might make up a small role in the event for yourself so that the event comes alive for you.

Keep in mind:

The focus of the disciples and apostles became Jesus and His message. That drew them and, only later, did they find that they had to live at peace with each other. In fact, the Lord challenged them further and called them to serve each other and to love one another as He had loved them. Their community (the early Church) became part and parcel of the message of Jesus because people would say: see how they love one another. The message of Jesus needs to be incarnated in the love we have for one another. The closer we are to Him, the closer we will be to each other.

For your journal or notes:

Does it seem that God is saying something in particular to me?

Where do you find yourself loving and being loved in the Church?

Are there insights that came to me from the Scripture passage or from my prayer?