



"Now what?" It's a difficult thing to hear, isn't it? The train comes late, a child unexpectedly cries, and the latest public policy debate flares up in the news. Life throws us curveballs, and we have no choice but to adapt. Jesus and the Apostles find themselves in that exact situation in today's Gospel.

The Apostles have returned from their two-by-two missionary journey. As Jesus hears all of their stories, he knows they need time to recover and refresh. *"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."* Their wilderness retreat is short-lived, however, as eager crowds discover their location. Jesus is well aware of the needs of his disciples. Still, as he looks out at the crowd, *"His heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd."* The rest break is over. *"He began to teach them many things."*

For those of us who have experienced a taste of much-needed relaxation only to have it taken away abruptly, perhaps we surmise what the Apostles might have been feeling in that moment. But Jesus isn't being inconsiderate of the Apostles needs. He offers them — and us — a lived lesson. St. John Paul II wrote, "The whole of Christ's life was a continual teaching: his silences, his miracles, his gestures, his prayer, his love for people, his special affection for the little and the poor, his acceptance of the total sacrifice on the Cross for the redemption of the world" (*On Catechesis in Our Time*, 9). In Jesus' choice to teach, we see all of these things: sacrificial love, concern for the marginalized, and priority of people's needs over personal preference. These aren't abstract ideals. They're lived realities as we strive to live and love like Jesus. When a new obstacle confronts you in your life, how do you respond?

CATHOLIC QUOTES - WORDS TO INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL

"With God, every moment is the moment of beginning again."

- Catherine Doherty

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The many images we have of God help frame our relationship with Him. Have we ever imagined Jesus so deeply moved with emotion and engulfed with pity for us? We often are sheep without a shepherd who are lured by the emptiness of worldly attractions and superficial desires. We become lost. God, in the depth of His being, is deeply moved by our pain, loneliness, and heartache. God does not judge or condemn. He loves and is mercy itself. He knows firsthand the pain that comes with being lost and alone and desires to teach us about His merciful love. Do we want to be taught? Listen to God's word and be open to God's presence in the Eucharist.

KIDS' CORNER

Have you ever just wanted to be alone for a while? Jesus and his disciples knew what that felt like. They wanted to be alone to talk and rest, but crowds of people were surrounding them. Even when Jesus and his disciples tried to slip away unnoticed, people followed them anyway. They arrived only to find more crowds of people. This was certainly not the quiet time they had planned on. Being patient and kind, Jesus gave up what he wanted, and he began to teach the crowds.

Jesus gave up what he wanted, just so he could help other people. How can you follow his example?



Thank you to all parishioners who have renewed their Stewardship of Treasure Commitment for 2018.

Sunday's Offertory - July 15, 2018

Pre-Authorized Giving:	\$ 14,000.00
Noah's Buddies	\$ 4.50
Loose:	\$ 821.00
Votives:	\$ 177.65
<u>Novena Mass</u>	<u>\$ 419.75</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 15,422.90

Our minimum weekly offertory income requirement: \$20,000.00



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