



The Ego/Fame Lure

Lesson #12

This lesson centers on the call to empty ourselves in order to fully serve God. Christ's example of complete submission to the Father's will in completely emptying himself and taking human form is always before us. This lesson makes a wonderful contrast to the lesson on self-esteem. A good sense of personal dignity is important; a strong sense of self is, too. Problems arise when this grows into egotism.

In the world today, children are over-exposed to famous, often infamous, people. They see, often without recognizing them, the problems which can result from egoism. In an 'all about me' world, being a follower of Jesus Christ is not easy.

The Scripture references are not about being famous; they are about service to others, putting others first. They are about rewards not of this world. The Way of the Lord is summed up by the quote from Mark's gospel: "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." MK 12:31 The beatitudes from Matthew's gospel show us a different way to live. Later, we are reminded not to store up treasure in this world, but in heaven where it cannot be destroyed. We are told to become like a child, completely depending on and trusting in God in order to enter the kingdom.

As symbol, the crucifix is on the one hand universally known; yet was a scandal. Fame, attached to the Cross, would not be seen as a good thing in today's world. Christ's teachings and example of 'other-centeredness' is counter cultural to us.

The Sign of Peace is more than simply a greeting to those around us, it is an opportunity for reconciliation.



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Lesson Plan #12

Lesson Plan:

Prayer	Loving and gracious God, Help us to remember to always think first and stay safe. <i>Enable us to be light to others.</i> This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.
Scripture	1 Corinthians 1: 27-31 Matthew 5: 3-12 <i>Beatitudes</i> 6: 19-21 <i>treasure in heaven</i> 18: 1-5 <i>greatest in heaven</i> 20: 20-28 <i>Son of Man came to serve</i>
Saint or Hero	Ignatius Loyola—proud young soldier, becomes selfless servant of God Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Additional Catechist Resources:

Symbol	Crucifix—international fame; complete gift of self for us
Music	<i>God Has Chosen Me</i> (Bernadette Farrell, OCP) <i>Let There Be Peace on Earth</i> (Sy Miller, GIA)
Liturgy or Rites	Sign of Peace <i>Lord, I am not worthy to receive you; only say the word & I shall be healed.</i>
Prayers	see below
Church Teachings	MK 12:29-31 <i>The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart.... You shall love your neighbor as yourself</i> ." CCC: 1878 <i>"Love of neighbor is inseparable from love of God"</i> .

Doing the Little and the Great Things

Teach us, Lord,
to do the little things
as though they were great
because of the majesty of Christ
who does them in us
and who lives our life.
Teach us to do the greatest things
as though they were little and easy
because of his omnipotence. **Blaise Pascal**