

Whoever finds his life will  
lose it, and whoever loses  
his life for my sake will  
find it.  
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching  
Guard the sharing

# Male Call

## Nov 2, 2007—The Great Commission: Discipleship—Part XII

6:00 – 6:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Coffee &amp; Donuts</li> <li>2) Opening Prayer</li> </ul>
6:05 – 7:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Progress in discipleship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>How would you spend the next 30 minutes with Jesus if he were bodily waiting for you in the next room?</b></li> <li>b) Recall the seven Teresian Mansions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Inwardly: progress in our prayer life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Vocal prayer</li> <li>(2) Discursive meditation</li> <li>(3) Infused contemplation (a gift from God)</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii) Outwardly: transformed life</li> </ul> </li> <li>c) Basic condition for a serious prayer life (“beginners”)<sup>1</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) An earnest, continuing effort to rid oneself of sins, imperfections, and attachments (<u>NOT</u> a matter of a “right” prayer technique) <p><i>Behold, the sower went out to sow; and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. “But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.</i> (Mt 13:3-9)</p> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <li>2) Principles of growth<sup>1</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Work and prepare with determination and every effort to bring my will into conformity with God’s will</li> <li>b) Growth is independent of my immediate situation (e.g., money, job, community)</li> <li>c) Conformity means my generously going beyond the letter of obedience (crucial for growth)</li> <li>d) Continually look to root out my defects as God reveals them to me</li> <li>e) God gives prayer growth precisely in accordance to my degree of readiness for it</li> <li>f) It is possible for me to regress (see the parable of the soils)</li> <li>g) There is a correlation between virtue (humility, temperance, charity, chastity,</li> </ul> </li>

	<p>diligence, forgiveness, kindness, patient, loving, etc) and prayer growth</p> <p>h) I must remain determined (athlete of God). Mediocrity is not acceptable (Sardis, Rev 3:1-3; Laodicea, Rev 3:14-17).</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> The role of spiritual disciplines is to help us with this.</p> <p>3) Dangers<sup>1</sup></p> <p>a) Satan will try and snare us (third kind of soil). It begins almost imperceptibly— Satan is cunning!</p> <p>i) Indulge my petty preferences</p> <p>ii) Submit to trivial self-centeredness</p> <p><i>In the persons who go from sin to sin, the enemy is commonly used to propose to them apparent pleasures, making them imagine sensual delights and pleasures in order to hold them more and make them grow in their vices and sins.<sup>2</sup></i></p> <p>b) God warns us when this begins to happen:</p> <p><i>In these persons the good Spirit uses the opposite method, pricking them and biting their consciences through the process of reason.<sup>2</sup></i></p> <p>4) Where are you in the journey?</p> <p>a) Your role</p> <p>b) Role of the pastors</p> <p>c) Role of a spiritual director</p> <p>d) Role of a spiritual friend</p>
7:00	Closing Prayer

<sup>1</sup>Dubay, Thomas. *The Fire Within*

<sup>2</sup> St. Ignatius of Loyola. *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola*. This is his first rule of spiritual knowing and perception of movements of the soul.