

In today's Gospel Jesus says, ***"Every tree is known by its own fruit."*** In these few words Jesus challenges us to look deep into our hearts and discover who we truly are; bearing the sweet fruit that should come when our lives are rooted in faith and love. Jesus is asking us to live our lives as his disciples. What is the evidence of our discipleship? Does the ***"...Store of Goodness in our hearts produce good?"***

In his homily for the Mass of Canonization of St. Teresa of Calcutta, Pope Francis, tells us what we should expect from ourselves as we live our faith. He said; ***"We are called to translate into concrete acts that which we invoke in prayer and profess in faith. There is no alternative to charity: those who put themselves at the service of others, even when they don't know it, are those who love God."*** This should be the fruit of our faith. It is through our acts of love and mercy that we show the evidence of who we are or hope to be. So this weekend I challenge you to search your soul and in the quiet of your heart for the evidence of the discipleship we are all called to live as the result of our baptism. When we proclaim Jesus Christ with our lips, we must affirm this truth with our lives.

As I prepared for this weekend's conference, I was asked, ***"How are women to embrace Jesus as we face the messages of the world?"*** It's no surprise that I turned to Saint Teresa for an answer to the world's

misplaced values. Her answer was found on the wall in St. Teresa's bedroom.

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

St. Teresa tells us what the world would want us to believe, and then repeatedly she shows us how we should respond in faith. It may not be easy to forgive anyway, be happy anyway, and do good anyway; but

Jesus told us that the price of discipleship would not be easy: pick up your cross, forgive your enemies, to become detached from worldly and material values, placing the needs of others before our own, and follow Christ.

In St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he writes, "My beloved ones avoid idolatry." The many messages placed before us falsely proclaim meaningless and fake gods in the form of self-centered concerns, frivolous passions, the need of power and acceptance at any cost.

Placing any confidence in these counterfeit deities places our faith on a foundation built on sand that shifts with the wind each day, weakening our will to follow Jesus and cultivate the fruit of goodness in our hearts.

St. John Paul the Great, a dear and faithful friend of St. Teresa, pointed to her as an example of how a faithful missionary disciple lives and strengthens their faith each day by encountering Christ in many ways.

He said; ***"In prayer she discovered the essential truth which underlies the Church's social teaching and her religious and humanitarian work in every age and in every part of the world: Jesus Christ, the Eternal Word made flesh, the Redeemer of mankind, has wished to identify himself with every person - especially the poor, the sick and the needy."***

In this way we call out, "Lord, Lord", reflecting His mercy and love in our lives.