

The Pray More Advent Retreat Study Guide

Pray Big: "Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God" by Fr. Kyle Manno

Reflective Questions

"God has created me to do Him some definite service;
He has committed some work to me
which He has not committed to another.
I have my mission—
I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.
...I am a link in a chain,
a bond of connection between persons.
He has not created me for naught.
I shall do good;
I shall do His work;
I shall be an angel of peace,
a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it,
if I do but keep his Commandments.
...Therefore I will trust Him.
Whatever, wherever I am.
I can never be thrown away.
If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him;
in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him;
in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.
...He does nothing in vain.
...He knows what He is about." - Bl. John Henry Newman

1. Jesus condemns those who seek the sign and not the person who creates the sign. In other words, He wants us to desire a relationship with Him and not just an object we've been praying for. In what ways have you found yourself desiring and being attached to things, or outcomes of your prayer, instead of a deeper relationship with Jesus?
2. What signs have you been looking for? What signs have you seen? How have they been able to draw you closer to God?
3. When Fr. Manno began to pray big in his discernment, he asked God to change his heart. Is this a prayer you can begin to pray more often throughout Advent, and afterwards? In what ways would you like God to change your heart?

4. Life is about living for and dying for others; being there for others. How are you called to do this? If you're struggling with the answer to this question, consider praying about it every day with this simple prayer: "God, transform me, breathe life into me and show me how I'm called to live like You."