

Daily Homily

Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time, Friday

22 September 2023

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In Luke's Gospel, out of all the Gospels, we see Jesus who welcomes into his life those who, in his day and age, were not readily welcomed. Today's Gospel we see that women are praised as disciples, as his followers. Even if Jesus is just a Jewish Rabbi, this is radical stuff. Women were not allowed to follow rabbis. However, today, we have a whole list.

And even with the Apostles and the other disciples, this is not about a call to honor or privilege, this is a call to service – a task and a responsibility. And the women who are mentioned today... Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and many others, they took up the service – the task and responsibility, of providing for Jesus' ministry out of their own resources. Meaning, from their own gifts and talents.

As with any part of the Gospels, this is groundbreaking stuff.

In Jesus' time:

- free men were better off than slaves – not true with Jesus.
- Jews were better off than Greeks – not true with Jesus.
- The healthy and productive were better off than the sick who needed to be isolated and dismissed – not true with Jesus.
- The Pharisees and Scribes were better off than the commoner – not true with Jesus.
- And men were better off than women – not true with Jesus.

All of us... we find closeness with Jesus, keeping company with him, friendship in him, our bond with him... in service to others – that's where we find discipleship, where we follow him, no matter who we are.