

The King and His Call

Preparation: I take the usual time to place myself before God in reverence.

Grace: I ask Jesus that I might not be deaf to his call in my life and that I might be ready and willing to do what he wants.

The Setting: There are two unequal parts in this consideration, the first one naturally leading to the more important second part. The parable of the human leader is meant only to help contemplate the life of Christ our eternal king.

First, I imagine a human leader, raised up by God. Everyone of goodwill will, whatever their age, is drawn to be in the presence of such a leader, to listen, and to follow.

The challenge of this leader rings out in words like these: "I want to overcome all diseases, all poverty, all ignorance, all oppression and slavery – in short, all the evils which beset humankind. Whoever wishes to join me in this undertaking must be content with the same food, drink, clothing, and so on, that comes with following me. So, too, whoever is with me in the labour of the day's work and with me in the loneliness of the night watches will likewise have a part with me in the final victory."

If a leader so attractive and inspiring and so good and close to God issues a call like this, what kind of person could refuse such an invitation? How could anyone not want to be a part of such a noble challenge?

Second, I consider Jesus and his call. If a human leader can have such an appeal to us, how much greater is the attraction of the God-Man, Jesus, our Leader and King! Jesus' call goes out to all peoples, yet he specially calls each person *in a particular and unique way*. He makes this kind of appeal: "It is my will to win over the whole world, to overcome evil with good, to turn hatred aside with love, to conquer all the forces of death: whatever obstacles there are that block the sharing of life between God and humankind. Whoever wishes to join me in this mission must be willing to labour with me, and so, by following me in struggle and suffering, may share with me in glory."

With God inviting me and victory assured, how can anyone in their right mind not surrender to Jesus and his call to labour with him?

Those who zealously want to follow Jesus may want to express themselves in words such as these: "Eternal King of all creation, humbly I come before you. Knowing the support of Mary, your mother, and all your saints, I am moved by your grace to offer myself to you and to your work. I deeply desire to be with you in accepting all wrongs and all rejections and all poverty, both actual and spiritual – and I deliberately choose this, if it is for your greater service and praise. If you would so call and choose me, then take and receive me into such way of life."