

40



**CHALLENGE**





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# 40

## Transforming Encounters

*Luke 1:1-4*

Many have tried to portray the events that took place, and the evangelist Luke, according to his own words, carefully studied everything from the beginning and recorded all the events in the order in which they occurred. (Luke 1:1-4). It is this very account of Luke's that we'll be reading during 40 days of spiritual preparation for Easter, the most important Christian holiday. It is a time in which we want especially to reflect on, and experience anew, the greatest story ever told. During these 40 encounters with Jesus, chronologically recorded in the Gospel of Luke, we want to experience for ourselves, again and again, or perhaps for the first time, an authentic and life-changing encounter with the Lord - a **TRANSFORMING ENCOUNTER**.

An encounter is an important framework of Luke's Gospel which emphasizes profound change, with special emphasis on the themes of mercy, inclusion, and the fulfillment of God's promises. Transforming encounters with Jesus are not isolated moments, but key events that reflect broader themes of the history of salvation, and reveal God's nature to us, embodied in Christ. Through encounters with different people - individuals, or groups of people - we see and experience Jesus as a compassionate Savior who invites the person(s) he's talking with to change. As we join the authors of these

texts on this journey as readers of Luke's detailed accounts, we ourselves are inevitably invited to change, as we reflect on Jesus' words, actions, and loving, compassionate approach.

Jesus' encounters reveal God's character to us, and His tireless love and constant search for humanity. As we read and listen, we come to know a Jesus who breaks down barriers. He meets and invites everyone - Jews, Gentiles, the marginalized and socially unacceptable, the sick, and the rejected - to "come to Him...". All at once we encounter a God who hears our cries, understands our struggles, and enjoys a relationship with us, who wants to walk alongside us, share in our joys and sorrows, and guide us through this life. We encounter something completely different, deep, intimate, and profound—and without us intending or planning it—that encounter transforms us.

You can find additional materials and a PDF version of this booklet on the website [bczagreb.hr/en/challenge40](http://bczagreb.hr/en/challenge40) ▶



# 1

## The Shepherds

*Luke 2: 8-20*

Every meeting takes place between two or more people. Spontaneous or prearranged, the participants may have different impressions or reactions.

In Luke 2: 8-20 we read the announcement of an event in which a meeting is hidden in the background. With splendor and glory, Heaven descends over the pastures where shepherds dwell with their flocks. They are frightened and confused by what they hear and see, but the Angel encourages them: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” When their hearts calmed down, they left their flocks and hurried to Bethlehem to see the Child. Finding the family with the Child laid in the manger, they knew they were in the right place.

The report does not tell us how long they stayed in Bethlehem, but they made their experience known to the people. Everyone wondered at their story of what had happened, and the shepherds returned to their herd glorifying and praising God for the news they had heard, and the sight that confirmed it.

The shepherds could not verbally talk with the newborn Jesus, but that meeting visibly changed them. How do we communicate with Jesus today? And do we change when we meet him?

**Decide that in the coming days you will open yourself to the possibility of meeting Jesus in places and moments when you least expect him.**

# 2

## Simeon in the Temple

*Luke 2:21-35*

Have you ever waited for someone? Did you know who you were waiting for? Were you in the right place at the right time? Were you late?

Sometimes it happens that we know the meeting place, and with whom we have to meet, but we forget the time. And then what?

I had such an arranged meeting. I knew with whom and where, but I could not remember when. It turned out that I arrived three hours early, - but in the end, the right moment came.

Simeon's encounter with Christ is an example of how to arrive at the right time and the right place in order to meet the right person.

Simeon allowed himself to be led by the Holy Spirit and he saw what God had prepared for him - a meeting with the Savior. He waited in the right place at the right time, and he blessed the child and the parents with a joyful heart.

What do we do and say after meeting the Savior? Do we quietly think to ourselves "job done, another box ticked", or do we patiently wait for God to lead us further...?

When we see the salvation that God has prepared for us, regardless of the darkness that is around us or in us, God fills every corner of our life with light. A meeting in the right place with the right person.

**Allow God to open your spiritual eyes and ears anew every day, so you don't fail to recognize and meet Jesus.**

# 3

## Mary and Joseph

*Luke 2:41-52*

Have you ever wondered what Jesus was like as a boy, or a young man? What was it like for Joseph and Mary to raise the Son of the Most High, God and man?

This anecdote about Jesus as a 12-year-old always catches me off guard. After supernatural conception and birth, this “earthly” event is something close and familiar to us. As families, we all have our own traditions, customs, and memories related to these customs. We want to pass on to our children what is important to us, to instill in them our same values, especially regarding religion, so that they continue in our footsteps. These are moments of gathering family and friends, of togetherness. The center of our attention, as believers, should be Jesus. But our days are filled with various activities, lots of things distract us, and we lose sight of Jesus, as if he simply isn’t there. When we realize that days have passed without meeting Him, we are sad. We pray, and seek Him, sometimes panicked, as if we’ve lost a most valuable jewel.

But Jesus, the perfect example of obedience, one with the Father, never loses anyone. He looks for the lost sheep and is always with us. We are the ones who forget. This should remind us not to look for Him where He is not, amidst the glitter and hustle, but in the quietness of our hearts.

**Decide from today not to let Jesus out of your sight, and to learn from him about obedience to God.**

# 4

## The Devil

*Luke 4:1-13*

You are preparing for an important conversation. All plans are going superbly. The project is ready, the calculations are made, the dynamics are optimal, and the presentation is perfect. Just one more conversation and everything will be over. Success is within reach. The painstaking hours and days of preparation are behind you, and just one more small step and it'll be done.

The Devil goes into the desert to meet Jesus. Jesus, after his baptism, full of the Holy Spirit, and confirmed as the Son of God, spends forty days in the desert, and having not eaten, becomes hungry. The Devil tempts him for forty days, and the final meeting with Jesus is approaching. The preparation is done, the offer is on the table. Tempting and attractive, it is not something to be refused. Yet Jesus rejects all offers - remains faithful to his Father, and the mission intended for him. The Devil leaves him alone until the next opportunity.

Can the Devil spoil our plans? Can he undermine our mission? What do his offers look like for us today? Prioritizing the acquisition of material goods, building our own kingdom, and striving for spectacular experiences can prevent us from fulfilling our mission on this earth.

Does an encounter with Jesus establish steadfastness in our mission? Are we ready to worship Him only, serve Him only?

And let's not forget, if we have successfully overcome one temptation, the Devil leaves us alone only until the next opportunity. Therefore, be vigilant!

**Accept the possibility that the Devil will tempt you too, and therefore, like Jesus, rely on the power of God's Word.**

# 5

## ALL in the Synagogue in Nazareth

*Luke 4: 16-30*

ALL who happened to be in the synagogue in Nazareth that day were impressed by Jesus. ALL were amazed and spoke well of him, and then ALL were so enraged that they wanted to kill him. Jesus did not try to impress them with miracles, nor did he want to please them with words. Jesus challenged their expectations, their beliefs, and above all their narrow-mindedness. On that day in Nazareth, Jesus publicly announced his mission - the fulfillment of the prophecy about the Good News, which applies not only to the Jews but to all nations. ALL who heard it had the opportunity to decide for themselves what to do with those words. But at that moment, ALL turned against Jesus.

I am one of those ALL who praise Jesus and know a lot about him. I am amazed by the beauty of his words and actions which bring the Good News of love, liberation, grace and mercy. However, I wonder if I am really ready to accept a Jesus who speaks and acts outside of my understanding of who He is. What about when Jesus decides to reveal himself, to answer a prayer, to fulfill a need...not to those who believe correctly, according to my judgement, but to all those who seek him, even in the wrong way?!? Can such a Jesus enrage me, or at least make me a little angry?!? Of course I'm not thinking of kicking Jesus out of 'my town', but I wonder if I'm ready to follow Jesus even when he challenges my whole well-established world of faith.

**Choose to follow Jesus today even when He pushes the boundaries of your well-established world.**

# 6

## Simon Peter

*Luke 5:1-11*

One evening, I spent some time looking at the sea near Poreč. The water was still, and the night was calm. The longer I looked, the more lights I noticed as they appeared on the sea. In the morning, I saw that they were commercial fishing boats. Fishermen know that night is the best time to fish.

About 2000 years ago there was a commercial fisherman named Simon Peter. He too spent nights fishing. One night, Peter was unable to catch anything. He was cleaning up from a disappointing night when Jesus told him, “Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But **because you say so**, I will let down the nets.” When Peter obeyed Jesus, he caught so many fish that his boat was about to sink.

We see two key things here. First, Peter had been doing what he knew well, fishing at night, but when Jesus told him to fish in the daytime, which made no sense logically, Peter **obeyed immediately**. Second, Peter was a professional fisherman, but he **responded with humility** to what Jesus commanded. In our lives, when Jesus directs us, we too need to obey immediately, and humbly. Whether in familiar situations where we think we know best, or if God’s directions seem to go against our natural logic, God desires and blesses our immediate obedience.

**Allow God to bless you in what you do, let him show you a better way than the one that seems best to you.**

# 7

## The Paralyzed Man

*Luke 5:17-26*

When Jesus taught, he attracted many. Some wanted to learn something, but there were also always those who tested everything. Jesus' actions drove his opponents crazy, but on the other hand, they brought joy and happiness to sinners and the vulnerable. Nothing could stop these people from coming to Jesus with the sick man. What an idea! Through the roof, because it's so crowded! Jesus saw their faith and said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you"! At this the teachers of the law and the Pharisees began to think, "Who is this who blasphemes?" They only cared about the letter of the law and whether it was followed properly. Jesus knew very well what was going on in their hearts and minds. He has the power to forgive sins and to heal. Jesus wants to tell everyone that he is the only God, and not just with words, because anyone can say that. He continues, "I say to you, young man, rise, pick up your bed and go home!" The man gets up and leaves, praising God. Something unprecedented has happened. Man is freed from sin and disease. In God's proximity, body and soul are healed. The friends of the sick man are also important here. And it's a miracle nowadays too: bringing others to Jesus, helping, and loving - the way Jesus loves us. This is how we represent our Lord Jesus, as he lives and works in us and through us.

**Decide from today to bring your friends in need before Jesus, and intercede for them in prayer.**

# 8

## Levi

*Luke 5:27-32*

When Levi met Jesus, he immediately gave up everything to follow Him. He didn't just finish his work early for that day, he quit his job and gave up everything he had worked for up to that point. All because he knew that Jesus had something much better for him. Shortly after his encounter with Jesus, Levi prepared a great feast, so that others could meet Jesus and make the same decision he had.

Jesus accepted the invitation to come to the feast. It was an opportunity to share the Good News of the Kingdom with those who needed to hear it most. It was the beginning of the evangelization that he would carry out throughout his life.

Just like Jesus, (and Levi), if we want to reach the lost, we must have contact with them. Jesus didn't let social status mandate His relationships with people. He didn't require people to change before following Him. He sought them out, met them where they were, regardless of their circumstances, and offered them grace.

Jesus showed us that we shouldn't let cultural norms determine who we share the Good News with. The sick need a doctor, the lost sheep need a shepherd. Are we praying to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into the field? Are we willing to go ourselves? Are we willing to give up everything to follow and serve Jesus?

**Think about how you decide who you will share the Good News about Jesus Christ with..**

# 9

## The Centurion

*Luke 7:1-10*

Imagine a typical scene, maybe from a film, portraying someone in a position of high authority who wants to save something he loves. He shouts, rages, and uses every resource available to him and every person under his command to find a solution, whatever the cost.

But this is not that scene. This text is about a man in high authority who is on the verge of losing something he loves. But instead of desperation, there is “such great faith not even found in Israel.” The centurion understands the limits of his authority, so he finds the man who has authority over illness and death. Even though this is still very early in Jesus’ ministry, the centurion states he is not worthy for Jesus to come under his roof and knows that Jesus can heal just by saying the word. His behavior shows that he recognises Jesus’ divinity, and Jesus himself admires his faith and is amazed!

The crowd following Jesus sees that faith does not come from desperate situations, nor because the centurion was deserving, but instead great faith comes from a better understanding of who Jesus is. By his example, the Roman centurion invites us to change too, so that our faith in Jesus does not originate in our own helplessness or despair, but from a deeper understanding of Jesus and what he wants to do in our lives.

**Choose today to trust Jesus for who He is, regardless of your circumstances and your in/ability to believe.**

# 10

## The Widow From Nain

*Luke 7:11-17*

Two crowds. One walking with Jesus, the other, a funeral procession. The crowd with Jesus is happy and elated after witnessing the miraculous healing of a centurion's sick servant. The crowd with the widow is grieving and mourning the death of her only son. They meet at the entrance to the city of Nain.

It is interesting to note that in this encounter the widow does not approach Jesus, nor ask him for help, and we don't see her reaction after the resurrection of her son. But we see Jesus who sees the individual in the crowd. He sees her grief, loss, and brokenness. He knows that this is not the first time she has lost a loved one, and that without her son, she has no economic security. Jesus has compassion on the widow and tells her not to cry. He moves towards the coffin, resurrects the young man, and gives him to his mother. The widow never expected this miraculous reunion with her son. Everything changed. The crowd, overcome with fear, began to praise God, - both mother and son among them. This event completely changed their lives - their present and their future.

You may sometimes feel that your needs are not visible because of the crowd around you. This event confirms the opposite. Jesus sees you, understands you, approaches you. In reaction to this miracle, the crowd gave glory to God. Join such a crowd!

**Allow Jesus to come to you in your greatest need and deepest pain. He sees you even in the midst of the crowd.**

# 11

## Simon the Pharisee

*Luke 7:36-50*

The Evangelist Luke is the only one to report the incident in which Simon the Pharisee invited Jesus to his home to dine with him. A woman, a “sinner,” joins the meeting completely uninvited and honors Jesus, “wetting his feet with her tears, wiping them with her hair, kissing them and anointing them with perfumed oil”. This confuses Simon and he wonders what kind of prophet this is, who is unaware that she is a sinner. Jesus responds insightfully with the parable of the two debtors. He explains his relationship with the woman, emphasizing that “her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much.” Simon would have recognized Jesus as a prophet if he had “turned away and separated himself” from sinners. Jesus does the opposite, and shows the Father’s love and mercy through his relationship with sinners. Where there was much sin, Jesus brought much love. He warned Simon that he who is forgiven little, loves little.

This picture of Simon observing and judging others is still relevant today. Aren’t we “like” Simon when we look at, and treat others in this way? Don’t we see ourselves as those who have been forgiven? Like Simon, we too must ask ourselves what image of our heavenly Father we have.

Jesus, let us look into Your mirror, become aware of our sinfulness, and begin to love one another as You love us!

**Considering the grace you have received, decide today to begin to look at the people around you without judgment.**

# 12

## The Sinful Woman

*Luke 7: 36-50*

Who let her in? I believe that was the question on the minds of many when the sinful woman came to the feet of Jesus. Maybe someone was deliberately setting up a new challenge for Jesus?

An unnamed woman, condemned in advance by the vast majority, lays down ALL she has at the feet of Jesus. If she had come 'only' with tears and a sincere attitude, I believe that Jesus' reaction would have been the same, but the expensive oil that she poured on his feet gives Jesus a good reason to rebuke his host, who had not even offered water.

An encounter with Jesus changes EVERYTHING. In just a few minutes, the Pharisee went from being a proud host to being ashamed and rebuked, and the woman went from being a completely broken person to redeemed, saved and at peace. This turnaround required great courage on her part - to enter among those who despise you, pour out all your soul and wealth before the Lord, and pray for mercy. While everyone else was focused on her past, Jesus was focused on her future.

After this miraculous act of love, the self-proclaimed 'righteous' elite remain merciless, even directing their venom at Jesus with the words 'Who is this...?'

How would we react if such a person entered our church? Can we redirect our self-righteous attitude to the need for ALL people to meet Jesus? Only that encounter can change perspectives, expose truth, and forever transform.

**Think about your past. Fully accept Jesus' redemption and grace. Thank Him for it.**

# 13

## The Disciples in the Storm

*Luke 8:22-25*

It's night. The disciples sail with Jesus towards Gerasa. A storm has arisen, a strong wind tosses the ship, big waves threaten to sink it, water pours into the ship, and the waves almost capsize it...

Experienced fishermen try to adapt to strong winds and a turbulent lake. But everything seems hopeless.

Then something happened that drastically changed their situation. They called on him! And He who parted the sea rebuked the wind, and calmed the storm. Jesus did not remove the disciples from the storm, but kept them in the storm.

What storm of your life are YOU going through? Do your storms also look like they will destroy you?

If you are going through some trial, trouble, illness... you are afraid... it hurts... you don't see a way out... you think it's over! Don't forget - Jesus is here! You think He's sleeping, but He's here. He's here to protect you. He's here to silence your fear. He's here to help you get to the other shore in your life's ship. Just call on him with faith. Just one invocation of His name can put your fear and your pain to rest.

If you leave your worries in His hands during the powerful storm within you, you will feel safe.

Almighty God is in your ship! He will calm the storm!

**Choose today to meet Jesus. He can calm even the worst storms in your personal life.**

# 14

## The Demon Possessed Man From Gerasenes

*Luke 8:26-39*

Shadows and persecution on all sides, even from the inside. Skin cracked from the heat, body marred by chains, exhausted, thirsty, in constant agony. The grave seems like an escape, but the silence and darkness of the tombs where he tries to sleep offer no respite. He fears people and people fear him. Endless isolation, a broken soul. He screams inside, - How can he get out of this?!

Suddenly, he feels his vocal cords bursting in a cry that is not his own, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me!"

Then he hears a voice like the sound of many waters drowning out everything, commanding "Come out of him!" Suddenly his soul rises. He sees light, feels the warmth of the sun, - and peace, PEACE! Quiet.. No more voices or shadows, rest for his tired body and mind!

Someone lifts him up, clothes him, and feeds him. He sits at the feet of his Savior and listens to every precious word. It is Jesus, the Savior of His soul! How can one repay such love?!

The man has no other desire than to stay with Jesus forever. But Jesus tells him, "return home and declare how much God has done for you."

A liberated heart has only one desire! To do the will of its Savior, so the man goes away proclaiming the mighty work that the Lord has done for him!

**Give all your pain, fears, loneliness, alienation, and every kind of brokenness to Jesus today.**

# 15

## Jairus

*Luke 8:40-42, 49-56*

Life often brings us situations when we realize that we cannot solve something on our own, and must seek help from someone else. The situation becomes even more difficult for us if we hear comments that are overly rational, or discouraging.

In *Luke 8*, we read that Jesus set out on a tour of cities and villages, preaching, teaching, and performing various miracles. A huge crowd follows him closely, and Jesus is tired. Then Jairus, whose daughter is dying, greets him on his knees. Can a person have a more serious problem? And then, in the midst of this crowd, another person in need appears.

In such a situation, one might be angry if Jesus' attention were drawn to someone else, or discouraged to hear the words, "Don't trouble the teacher anymore, your daughter is dead". One might be disappointed when he heard the grieving crowd mock Jesus' words that the girl was only sleeping. However, Jairus knew what he had to do, and Jesus just reminded him, "Only believe, and she will be made well."

Have we, like Jairus, ever found ourselves in a hopeless situation where the only thing we can do is come to Jesus, fall on our knees, and trust him? Jesus will never disappoint us because there is no problem that is too big for Jesus, and we are never a nuisance to him.

**Decide today that you will come to Jesus with confidence in every situation that exceeds your capabilities, and that you will not allow any obstacles or comments from other people to discourage you.**

# 16

## A Sick Woman

*Luke 8:40-48*

This event describes the encounter between Jesus and a woman who had been suffering from bleeding for twelve years.

We don't know what kind of bleeding she suffered, but we know she was considered, according to Old Testament law, an unclean person. Every thing or person she touched was unclean, and we can assume that she had not been in close contact with people.

The text tells us that the woman fought her illness unsuccessfully. Even after 12 years, no doctor could cure her. Not only had she lost all her possessions, but also her dignity. We can only imagine how physically and mentally exhausted she was due to her long illness, and how lonely and hopeless she felt.

And then a turning point comes in her life. In her despair, she gathers courage and takes a step towards Jesus and touches the edge of His cloak in order to be healed. She doesn't care about the crowd, or the provisions of the Law, because she knows that Jesus is her only hope. At that moment, the bleeding stops and she feels that she has been healed.

Jesus also feels it and asks, "Who touched me?" - not because he doesn't know, but because he wants her long-lost dignity to be restored to her in front of everyone.

It is good to dare and to give our burdens to Him, because an encounter with Jesus fundamentally changes everything for the better.

**Decide today to take one step closer to Jesus, because only He can restore your long-lost dignity.**

# 17

## The Hungry Crowd

*Luke 9:10-17*

A great crowd followed Jesus because they saw the miracles he had performed on the sick. Even when Jesus withdrew to solitude with his disciples, they continued to follow him. When he saw them, Jesus had compassion on them and welcomed them. He taught them about the kingdom of God and healed all who needed healing.

The people listened to his teaching and witnessed the healing of the sick, but this time they experienced much more, something they did not expect. They experienced Jesus in a completely new light. Jesus created enough food for everyone present from almost nothing. He supernaturally and miraculously fed more than 5,000 people! And so abundantly, that they were satisfied. Jesus shows them a new dimension of himself! A divine dimension, like when he fed the people of Israel in the desert. So great and powerful, and yet so caring for people who seek him. He sees their needs, and acts. He cares for their entire being.

It is the same today! Jesus meets us in our everyday lives! He is with us! He sees our being, our condition, our need! He teaches, heals, makes a way, sees ahead, keeps His promises, is a light in the darkness!

He works miracles! He cares for our entire being! That is what my God is like!

**Allow Jesus to meet you right now, and accept that He can do more than you expect.**

## Potential Followers

*Luke 9:57-62*

I imagine Jesus surrounded by people, including his disciples, walking along dusty roads through villages in the direction of Jerusalem. Fieldwork, we would say today - all sorts of events that serve as a lesson. Delighted by the teachings, exorcisms, healings, and attracted by miracles, the desire to follow the Master is awakened in people. To the first one who offers himself, Christ explains that he will have to give up comfort if he wants to serve. Jesus extends an invitation to someone else, but the man wants to first sort out some family obligations. A third also offers himself, yet has something he would like to do beforehand...

After this comes the text in chapter 10, "After this the Lord appointed seventy two..." So he chose others whom he sends out into the "harvest".

Do we also place conditions on Jesus' direct command: "Go and make disciples of all nations"? How many excuses do we have for avoiding daily devotion? Do we understand God's sorrow due to our ignoring his call, his command?

If we want to follow someone, we must also look at him. The feet go where the eyes are directed. Let us focus on Jesus, put him in the center, so that everything else will fall into its rightful place.

In verse 62 we read, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

And so, don't look back, son/daughter!

**Examine yourself today to see whether your eyes are fixed on Jesus, whom you are courageously following, - or perhaps are you looking back with convenient excuses?**

## An Expert in the Law

*Luke 10:25-37*

Lawyers, like this one in Luke, have come to believe that their interpretations of the Law are the result of their great intellectual ability and righteousness.

The first question does not provoke conflict, because Jesus confirms his answer: The Law does teach that eternal life is achieved by loving God and neighbor. But the lawyer then asks a second question: “Who is my neighbor?” This question reveals a deeper problem—the human tendency to intellectual arguments that distract attention from the heart of God’s commandments.

Jesus responds with the parable of the Good Samaritan. The priest and the Levite manage to find some intellectual or cultural excuse to ignore the wounded Jew without breaking the law. In contrast, the Samaritan—who has every reason not to see the Jew as his neighbor—shows mercy.

How many times has this lawyer allowed intellectual theories and abstract discussions to lead him away from the true essence of God’s commandments? How many times has he used questions like “Who is my neighbor?” to justify ignoring the very heart of God’s Law? How often do we do the same—justifying our lack of love for God and neighbor with selfish considerations? With this parable, Jesus challenges us to think, not about the boundaries of the Law (who is my neighbor), but about love that knows no bounds (To whom can I show mercy?). While intelligence is valuable, the gap between knowing what is good and doing what is good is bridged by a heart transformed by grace.

**Today, choose a well-known theory that you believe in, and put it into practice. Persevere in doing good to those who cannot repay you.**

# 20

## Mary

*Luke 10:38-42*

I love this text. Mary - the symbol of a true disciple. Her eyes fixed on Jesus, her heart filled with longing, awaiting words of instruction from His mouth. Her humble attitude at His feet says, "You are everything to me, I need you, I love you, I want to learn from you. Everything else in this world ceases to have importance for me because I am near you." She is rewarded with the words, "Mary has chosen the better portion." In many people's eyes, like Martha's, she would be characterized as lazy and disobedient. Don't we often think this way? In our enthusiasm for work and obligations, and in our concern with pleasing everyone, we forget what is most important. We judge others, considering them irresponsible and lazy. But Mary did not let herself be fooled. What was Jesus saying, that she couldn't tear herself away from him? Maybe this: I came into this world because I love you so much that I will lay down my life for you! I will save you from death and you will live forever! There is joy waiting for you, - no pain or suffering. One day I will come back for you, and until then follow me. Listen to my word. After I am crucified and take all the sins of the world upon myself. I will go to my Father, but DO NOT BE AFRAID! I will send the Holy Spirit to guide you. I will never leave you.

**Decide today to choose the better portion. Be still, sit at the feet of Jesus, and enjoy His word.**

# 21

## Martha

*Luke 10:38-42*

Martha is busy making everything perfect, trying to be a great host for Jesus. She is diligent and caring, but as she hustles, frustration builds. Feeling overwhelmed, she finally speaks up: “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

Jesus’ reply is calm and loving, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

He gently helps Martha see that she’s so caught up in doing things for Him and his disciples that she’s missing the moment to just be with Him and listen to His voice. It’s not that her work isn’t important, but Jesus is showing her, and us, that being present in His presence matters more than anything else.

This story is a reminder for all of us. How often do we get so wrapped up in our to-do lists that we forget to pause and acknowledge what’s truly important? Martha’s encounter with Jesus teaches us to let go of the distractions that seem more important, and focus on what really matters, being with JESUS and listening to His voice.

**Take a moment to set aside your tasks and spend time with our Lord. Make Him your priority always.**

## The Disciple Who Wants to Learn to Pray

*Luke 11:1-4*

Even after 19 years of living in close communion with Jesus, I often find myself in a situation where I feel I need an answer to the request posed by the disciple in today's words: "Lord, teach us how to pray!"

We hear so much about prayer, we know so much on an intellectual level, and yet from my own experience I can say that practice is different from theory. John G. Lake said: "There is a mighty lot of difference between saying prayers and praying." Oh, how true! There are those "prayers" that we are all familiar with: *wish lists, rituals, saying a quick grace before the first bite of food, assuring ourselves that God will protect us on a journey...* and the like. And I don't want to say that these prayers are wrong, but I believe that they are often not what prayer is in its essence – an encounter. When he begins his example of prayer with the words *Our Father*, Jesus gives us insight into the intimate nature of prayer. It is an encounter with the Father, an encounter with the living God who always has the power to transform and deeply affect all areas of life! Throughout this year's series of challenges, we're reflecting on various encounters that have occurred in the past, but let's not miss opportunities for everyday encounters that have the power to change our present, future, and even the past!

**Think about how sincere your desire is for the Lord to teach you to pray, and how ardent your need is to encounter your heavenly Father through prayer.**

# 23

## The Pharisees and Experts in the Law

*Luke 11:37-54*

The Pharisees and Lawyers in today's passage knew God's law very well, but they missed the heart of the Gospel. In today's passage, the first thing the Pharisee noticed after inviting Jesus to a meal was that Jesus was not holding to the tradition of washing before eating. Immediately Jesus gives specific examples in which their superficial religiosity is apparent. Jesus thus challenged the Pharisees to look at their own lives and see if their hearts were truly aligned with God's heart - if their lives were pointing others to God. The laws that the Pharisees held on to, or thought to be of utmost importance are called into question in this Pharisee's encounter with Jesus.

In the same way, we are all challenged to reflect on our lives. Are we saying one thing but living differently? Are we showing others the outside of our lives, but our insides are not aligned with God? Are we doing things just for others to see? Are we being hypocrites? If we say we are followers of Christ, are we living that out in a way that glorifies God? If not, are we willing to change? Or will we be like the Pharisees who strictly adhered to written rules and empty forms, instead of living the Gospel.

**Decide today to abandon superficial religiosity, and to live the Gospel. Think about what this specifically means in your daily life.**

# 24

## Someone in the Crowd Seeking Justice

*Luke 12:13-21*

The encounter we are reading about today is unusual in that we learn almost nothing about the man speaking to Jesus. The same Jesus who is otherwise so passionate about correcting social injustices, here seems to show no interest in the problem of this unnamed man. In fact, he seems to distance himself from him, and shows that he has no intention of interfering in his family relationships. The text doesn't clearly reveal why Jesus is taking this position.

However, it is possible that this man's request is being used here as an occasion to speak about a widespread problem. Jesus tells a story of a rich man who spent his life preoccupied with accumulating material possessions, only to learn that he would die the next night. Isn't it strange that he speaks about the sin of trusting in wealth among a crowd that most likely did not include many well-off people?

We all know someone who is famous for collecting things and almost never throwing anything away. It could be plastic bags, furniture, tools, plastic containers, or something else. Most often it is a harmless phenomenon, but sometimes it points to something that almost all of us have in common: the ease with which we become attached to material things. As understandable as such a tendency is in a world where material things are necessary for existence, it is nevertheless dangerous for (eternal) life!

**Think about this: Do you consider yourself materially poor enough that you don't actually hear this warning from Jesus?**

# 25

## The Woman With a Disabling Spirit

*Luke 13:10-17*

That Sabbath, a woman who had been bent over for 18 years was also in the synagogue. She had a severe deformity that made her life very difficult, and many things impossible. She could not raise her head to look someone in the eye, she could not reach anything or anyone, and pain was a part of her everyday life.

There were probably many people in the synagogue who wanted to be close to Jesus, which made it very difficult for this woman to approach him. She was invisible in the crowd.

But then a turning point occurred that changed her life. Jesus noticed her. This may have been the first time in her illness that someone had truly seen her. Jesus decided to bend down and look her in the eye, touch her, and heal her. He gave this woman the opportunity to look up again, straighten her back, embrace her loved ones. She was visible again.

Jesus once again showed that for him the person is always before the law, the crowd, the disease, or the sin.

Perhaps we ourselves sometimes feel hunched over under the burden of worries, illness, sin, weakness, dissatisfaction, fears. Perhaps we feel that under this burden even Jesus doesn't see us in the crowd.

**Be encouraged today, and come before Jesus no matter what situation you are in, because He certainly notices you, and can change your life.**

## Those Who Choose Places of Honor

*Luke 14:7-14*

Ever since I was little, I've had to face the fact that something was wrong with my vision. I was diagnosed with astigmatism. My eyes strained, my vision was worse at night, I saw shadows at the edges of letters, and my vision was blurry at a distance. Without my prescription glasses, my picture of reality was blurred.

In the parable of the guests at the banquet, Jesus speaks of a phenomenon in which, like me, we do not see reality as it is. The glasses through which we view the world show us that we often see ourselves as more important, more beautiful, more valuable, and more talented. Comparing ourselves to others, we believe that we deserve the places of honor.

Jesus warns us that such glasses can cause us a lot of embarrassment. If the one who invited us to the banquet sees reality differently, it can cause us a feeling of shame and humiliation. Jesus does not want this for us, so he calls us to be considerate of one another in our relationships. He warns both the host of the banquet, and the one invited. He urges the former not to behave like a merchant, and reminds the latter that relationships are not a matter of competition and rivalry.

**Decide today to start seeing yourself and others through Jesus' eyes.**

## The Crowd Who Follow Jesus

*Luke 14:25-35*

In this text, Luke describes Jesus' encounter with the crowd following him. Most leaders would be very happy to have a crowd follow them - happy because people have recognized their idea and vision.

However, Jesus addresses the crowd with words that still confuse us today, which are the opposite of everything they have heard so far: *"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple."*

Jesus expects complete dedication from his disciples, which alone can lead to the fullness of a relationship with Christ. Jesus asks us to make a complete separation, internal and external, from everything that surrounds and binds us - in relationships, or in the rush for our own survival.

In following Christ, we can expect pain and suffering, mockery and humiliation, struggle and blows, - everything that Christ experienced. This becomes our cross.

At the end of this text, In the parables, Jesus warns us to carefully assess the risks of the relationships we enter into.

Jesus demands excellence and dedication from his disciples, and continuous progress in our relationship with him, until other relationships, even the most intimate family ones, become a reflection of our primary relationship with Jesus.

**Think about the most important relationships in your life and ask yourself how your relationship with Jesus affects your other relationships. Allow Jesus to change them.**

# 28

## Ten Lepers

*Luke 17:11-19*

This encounter beautifully illustrates the difference between God's character and that of man. Although the lepers themselves had called out to Jesus and were ready to receive healing, only one of them remembered to return and express his gratitude. On the other hand, I believe that Jesus knew in advance who he would meet, and that is why it is incredible that he waited for these people to return later, even though he knew how it would end.

This makes me think about our relationship with God. How do our encounters with him end? Do we remember him only on certain days when our lives are not going well, or something is bothering us?

In this text, Jesus healed ten people, but then he did much more and healed all of us on the cross - not from illness, but from death itself. As he himself said: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

So let us take a lesson from these passages and remember our savior every day, not just when we "need him." Let us thank Him for all the gifts He gives us, including eternal life. He longs for this, and waits for us to come to Him as children to our father, to create a close relationship with him. There is truly no greater blessing than that.

**Decide today to embark on a path of greater gratitude to God for all that He does in your life. Give thanks for the specific things in your life.**

## Parents and Little Children

*Luke 18:15-17*

Blessing, spiritual and physical well-being - what parent doesn't want that for their child? I'm starting from the fact that every prayer said over my child from birth to today has been important to me. Thank God, no one denies us as parents this privilege.

In today's text, we read that "they" were approaching Jesus. We don't know if they are just mothers, or fathers as well, but it doesn't matter. If they are mothers, we know their low position in the society of that time. If they were fathers, they probably did not belong to any sect or political party, and were despised by the Pharisees because of their ignorance. Jesus himself was condemned for mixing with them. And here also are the children, whose position in society was almost insignificant.

Despite everything, "they" notice Jesus, and absolutely do not want to miss this opportunity. He is so different. He is not unreachable and untouchable, he is full of grace and truth. They felt free to approach him, and truly, they were not disappointed. Jesus notices them and focuses all his attention on the children - brought to him by parents aware of both their responsibility and blessing. The disciples did not understand this. They thought of themselves as important because Jesus called them. However, Jesus emphasizes that the kingdom of God belongs precisely to those who are like children and do not think of themselves as important.

**Think about whether you are sometimes like the disciples who, in Jesus' name, want to decide who is worthy of His attention.**

## The Rich Jewish Ruler

*Luke 18:18-30*

A rich and powerful young man approaches Jesus, addressing him as “Good Teacher”, a title reserved for those considered perfect. Jesus does not dispute the title, but asks him why he calls him “Good” when only God is good and perfect. He then answers his question about how to gain eternal life by reminding him to obey the commandments, especially those related to human relationships. Despite this ruler knowing and following the law, Jesus points out that he is still lacking something: Loving God with all his being, which would require him to renounce his attachment to wealth. The young man, distressed and saddened by this challenge, is unwilling to follow Jesus.

This should not be understood as a general command for everyone, but as a direct invitation to the young man, whose personal obstacle to receiving eternal life was his love for money. Jesus teaches that what seems impossible for men is possible for God: grace and salvation. In response, Peter, who had left everything to follow Jesus, asks what they will gain. Jesus replies, assuring them that those who leave everything for him will receive many times more, both in this life and in the life to come. Though the “many times more” can have a literal meaning, this expression clearly refers to the spiritual riches and eternal life that those who follow Jesus receive.

**Think about whether there is something in your life that you are not ready to give up, even though you know that it is keeping you away from God. Decide to work on it today.**

# 31

## The Blind Man of Jericho

*Luke 18:35-43*

Being blind is not easy today, but how difficult it must have been in Jesus' time! Such people lived on the edge of existence, depending on the mercy of other people. This man probably had a routine, a place where he begged.

One day, seemingly the same as any other, our main character settled down in his place and started begging. Little did he know that that day would turn his whole life around. Soon he heard a commotion, people calling out the name of Jesus. Perhaps he had already heard something about the miracles Jesus had performed for others, and he had a crazy idea how this man could help him. He decided to call out to Jesus. The crowd didn't like it and tried to silence him. But the blind man didn't care. He wanted to meet Jesus. He was persistent in his appeal. Jesus responded and asked him what he wanted him to do for him. We might think this was an unusual question to ask a blind man, but Jesus wanted to hear the man's heart. The blind man asked to see, and Jesus restored his sight. What a joy it was! The man began to praise God. That grain of crazy faith to call on Jesus in his need changed everything in his life.

**Dare to call on Jesus today in your need, with faith and confidence that He will answer you.**

## Zacchaeus

*Luke 19:1-10*

Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector, someone most people disliked and saw as a sinner. His story reminds us of two earlier stories: one where a proud Pharisee looked down on a humble tax collector (Luke 18:9-14), and another where a rich ruler could not give up his wealth to follow Jesus (Luke 18:18-30). Zacchaeus stands between these two examples. He is rich, like the ruler, but he does not walk away sad. He also knows, deep down, that he needs mercy, like the tax collector who prayed with a humble heart. When Jesus passes by, Zacchaeus does something surprising and childlike - he climbs a tree just to see Him! Jesus calls him by name and chooses to visit his home. This simple act of love and welcome completely changes Zacchaeus. He decides to give half of what he owns to the poor and pay back anyone he has cheated. He does this, not because of any law, but because Jesus's kindness has touched his heart. In this moment, Zacchaeus finds true riches. He learns that God's love is greater than money, and that anyone can start over when they meet Jesus.

**Choose today to accept Jesus' offer to be a guest in your home. Think about how Jesus' visit to your home could change your life.**

# 33

## Judas

*Luke 22: 3-6; 21-23; 47-48*

A great number of people's lives have been transformed because they met Jesus - even today. The encounter between Jesus and Judas, however, had the opposite effect as it changed the course of Jesus' life, from teaching the masses and spending time with his disciples to being tortured, humiliated and crucified. All of this pain, which even Jesus feared, caused by a single kiss from someone he was close to.

Jesus could have stopped Judas. He could have told his disciples who was to betray Him and they would try to protect Him. But He didn't. He shared His last meal with Judas, knowing about the deal Judas had made. Jesus' life changed in the moment of betrayal, but He didn't. He still didn't want any of his enemies getting hurt. He didn't run, He didn't fight.

We cannot change the decisions of others or save them from sin, but it is up to us how we respond to them. Will we draw our swords or show love to those around us? Will we cut off ears or heal them? People close to us can hurt us, but we have a choice. Can we still love that person, a sinner like us, and trust in God's plan?

**Start praying today for those who have betrayed you, who have taken advantage of you, who have pretended to be your friends. Call them your friends and show them the love that comes from God..**

# 34

## Peter

*Luke 22:31-34, 54-62*

Peter loved Jesus, walked with him for 3 years, absorbed every word, and saw the incredible healings Jesus performed. He trusted Jesus completely, and sincerely loved him.

And yet, he betrayed him! He denied knowing him three times after Jesus was arrested. Who knows how long it would have taken Peter to come to his senses over his betrayal if Jesus had not turned and looked at him. Peter wept bitterly. He was experiencing the pain and weight of his betrayal right then and there. And with that look Jesus did not accuse him, but told him to love him. Peter might have thought, “How can you love me after I denied knowing you?!”

I have asked myself that every time I’ve betrayed Jesus by not reaching out to a person in need, when out of fear or embarrassment I’ve said something unkind, and turned my back on someone.

Peter was hasty in his promises, but also quick in his repentance. How quickly do I notice the prompting of the Holy Spirit, recognize that I have made a mistake, and respond immediately by repenting? I want to be like Peter in this. To seek and accept the gaze of Jesus which offers forgiveness and love, despite my betrayal. Because then, and only then, will my life regain meaning, and the peace of Christ.

**Think about whether there is anything in your life that could be called a betrayal of Jesus. Receive today the gaze of Jesus that offers forgiveness and love despite your betrayal.**

# 35

## Pilate

*Luke 23:1-7, 11-22*

They say that there is something good in every man, even though it may not seem so at first glance. Even in Pilate: he has become a world-wide reminder of 'hand washing'. That notorious servant of a foreign regime whom all generations have hated, blamed, despised, belittled, and smugly mocked. How could it not have become clear to him (if not immediately, then at least during those many hearings of Jesus) who this is about - the Son of God, the Savior of the world?!

At first it seemed that he might be a positive person. Almost a good guy. Why did he turn out to be so unpopular, even hated? Why does everyone consider him a loser who missed the opportunity of a lifetime to become famous? A chance to be admired, to be remembered forever for his insight, foresight, courage, even to be worshipped? It would be nice if it were that simple. It's possible that he, looking back, would regretfully wish for it... He missed it by so little ...

If only he had persisted in his judgment. If only he had taken responsibility, hadn't given in to the pressure of majority opinion. If only he had risked... believed that truth has no price. If only he'd recognized the Messiah in Jesus... If only?

The thing that bothers me a little is that this Pilate is somehow too familiar and close to me. As if neither the good guy nor the loser is too far from me.

**Choose today to become a person who readily takes responsibility and fights for the truth because he recognizes that Jesus is the Messiah.**

# 36

## Herod

*Luke 23:6-12*

An encounter with Jesus inevitably changes something in us, and around us. Some are drawn by Jesus, while others are pushed further into hardness of heart and a life without God. When I read this text, my first impression was that nothing significant happened there. The facts are stated, Jesus' movement at that time is described, and that is where the message of this text ends. Jesus, who was in an unenviable situation, is led from ruler to ruler, in order to determine his fate. The encounter between Jesus and Herod seems ordinary and insignificant. Herod was waiting for him with curiosity, and wanted to see some miracle, or hear some wisdom from his mouth. Why didn't Jesus answer anything, or perform some miracle to impress Herod and show that everything that was said about him was true? He was silent.

If I were Jesus, I couldn't have remained silent. But something did happen. By failing to meet Herod's expectations, Jesus showed who He really was. He did not come for miracles and propaganda. He came to save the world. This was an opportunity for Herod to show interest in the true wealth that Jesus brings - repentance and eternal life. But Herod at that moment chose the superficial and worldly. He had Jesus before him. He chose Pilate. Unfortunately, Herod was not aware of it at that moment, but the trajectory of his earthly and eternal life would never be the same after that encounter.

**Think about whether you personally recognize Jesus as the one who brings salvation, or are you looking for some additional confirmation that will convince you that He is God?**

## The Criminals on the Cross

*Luke 23:32-43*

Golgotha, the place where Jesus and the thieves were crucified, is one of the most vivid and moving images in the Gospels. On one cross hangs Jesus, innocent and sinless, begging for forgiveness for his enemies, and on either side of him hang the thieves condemned for their crimes. While one of them mocks Jesus, bitterly rejecting the mercy offered to him, the other, in his last moment, embraces mercy. The Savior of the world, though crucified and dying, offers salvation.

This encounter with Jesus shows the incredible power of grace, and the power of freedom of choice. The thief with a repentant heart recognizes his powerlessness and relies on God's mercy. Jesus' love did not abandon him even in his worst moments. The other thief, however, chooses to remain bitter, rejecting God, his neighbors, and himself.

We, like these thieves, have the freedom to choose. Will we, despite our circumstances, remain bitter, rejecting His love? Or will we recognize our weaknesses and turn to Him, accepting the gift of salvation? Jesus does not leave us in our sins, but invites us to recognize His grace, and love that changes us.

Jesus leaves each of us free to choose. The thieves chose their path. It is up to us to decide whether we will take the path of grace, or bitterness.

**Think about whether there are situations in your life when you do not feel ready to accept the grace that Jesus offers, but rather persist in bitterness because of something that has happened to you.**

## The Centurion at the Cross

*Luke 23:44-49*

Dawn, - but no daybreak that Judean morning. The Roman centurion, an officer, skilled in warfare, felt a strange unease. He was tired. Just one more task. He would endure. This wasn't anything he hadn't already seen. Witnessing death and dying was his daily routine. He was overseeing yet another crucifixion of Jewish prisoners, including the radical Yeshua - Jesus of Nazareth. This too would pass, and he could breathe a sigh of relief.

Yet, he was anxious. He remembered Jesus standing calmly before Pilate. There was no guilt in him, Pilate concluded. Cowardly, he washed his hands and handed him over to the soldiers. Insults, abuse, mockery followed... And he had been with them. Morally neutral, he was doing dirty work. He was angry that Jesus had not defended himself. When they nailed him to the cross and lifted him up, he couldn't even look at him. Such a tortured body, so much suffering and acceptance of pain. *How, why?* - he screamed to himself. Suddenly darkness began to descend. The officer found courage and raised his gaze. His eyes met Jesus'. And then it happened. Something broke inside him. It shook him to the core. Jesus cried out: *Father, into your hands...* The centurion understood - Jesus is the Son of God. The earth shook mightily. This death was not ordinary. This man was not ordinary. This event was not ordinary in any way. For the Roman officer, that encounter was a pledge for eternity. What is it for you?

**Stop and think, perhaps for the first time deeply and seriously, how you and your life are affected by the knowledge that Jesus, who willingly died on the cross for your sins - is the Son of God.**

# 39

## The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus

*Luke 24:13-35*

In today's text we read about Jesus' appearance to two disciples after his death on the cross. As the disciples talk to each other on the road to Emmaus, their disappointment is evident, for they had hoped that Jesus would be the one to deliver Israel.

Despite the fact that the disciples had been with Jesus, seen his death, and had heard from other disciples that they had seen Jesus, some still did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. They didn't even believe these two disciples when they informed them that Jesus had appeared to them.

Unbelief, doubt, disappointment... are completely normal human characteristics. How does Jesus dissuade these two disciples from their unbelief? Jesus leads them to the Scriptures, explains to them the Scriptures that speak of Him. Jesus introduces them to the gospel.

For a person to truly be saved, he MUST encounter the living Christ. Only Christ can open spiritual eyes - by his appearance and personal encounter with each person. The result of an encounter with Christ is new life - joy in the heart!

Jesus uses the life of one person to change the life of another. Jesus has chosen you as a means to meet people, to change people's lives through you. Is there a greater joy than that?

**Accept Jesus' challenge. Let Him work through you, so that those who encounter you may also encounter Christ.**

## The Disciples Meet the Risen Lord

*Luke 24:36-53*

The risen Jesus comes among the disciples who have followed him for years, and know him well. Yet, they are confused, frightened, and think they are seeing a ghost. The Jesus they encounter here goes beyond their experience, knowledge of him, and understanding of reality.

Jesus **brings peace** to their confusion. **He reveals himself to them**, eats in front of them, wants them to touch him and understand what was incomprehensible to them until then – that he has truly conquered death and brought the **forgiveness of sins**. He repeats what he has already told them, and **enlightens their minds** so that they understand the Scriptures and himself. He gives them a message of hope for all people and makes them aware that **they are witnesses** who will pass this on to others. He does not leave them alone, but **blesses** them and promises them **power** and the **filling of the Holy Spirit**.

This is the encounter between the risen Jesus and his closest disciples – a unique moment in history. My acquaintance with Jesus, acceptance of his death, resurrection and forgiveness of my sins took place in a different way. Is there any point in looking for connections?

When Paul prays for the believers in Ephesus, he prays very similarly: he reminds them of the **grace** and **forgiveness of sins** they have received, he **blesses** them, he prays for **peace**, that God would **open their eyes to know him fully** and to understand how great **his power** is in them and that they

would be **filled with all the fullness** that comes from God. He encourages them to be **witnesses...**

Aware of the grace and forgiveness of sins that I have in him, I pray for more peace, knowledge, blessings, the power of the Holy Spirit, testimony, joy and praise in my life.

**Allow the risen Jesus to reveal himself to you and bring you peace. Allow the Risen One to open your eyes so that you may know Him fully and understand the power of His resurrection. Allow the Risen One to fill you with His Holy Spirit and make you a witness.**

# Transforming Encounters, Even Today

Over the past 40 days, we have met different people in different life circumstances who have brought their needs, their questions, their doubts, their objections or even their offers to Jesus. At the center of each of these encounters is Jesus, who readily takes time for each of them and approaches them in a completely personal way. Through his Word in recent days, Jesus has also wanted to meet each of us personally. Let's ask ourselves...

**Do I recognize in Jesus Christ God, who wants to meet me personally?**

**Do I recognize in Jesus Christ God, who wants to continue to meet me every day?**

**What is stopping me from opening myself up to the possibility of meeting Jesus for the first time?**

**What are my needs, my questions, my doubts, my objections, or offers that I want to bring to Jesus?**

**Do I truly want to allow Jesus to shape and change me?**

Perhaps these days you have recognized for the first time that Jesus wants to meet you personally. Perhaps this realization has already changed you, or you feel it changing you. Perhaps it has opened up some new questions that you want to talk about with someone. Feel free to contact us at [info@bczagreb.hr](mailto:info@bczagreb.hr).

Perhaps after a long time you have thought more seriously about your personal encounter with Jesus, and what it means for your life. Perhaps you see room for change and want to allow Jesus to do so. If you need to talk, feel free to contact us at [info@bczagreb.hr](mailto:info@bczagreb.hr).

Perhaps you're enjoying the knowledge that Jesus has changed your life, and praise God for it. Share your story of how Jesus met you personally with us. Write to us at [izazov40@bczagreb.hr](mailto:izazov40@bczagreb.hr).



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