

Peace for the Journey ... June 2, 2010

Scripture Reading: [Matthew 8:18-27](#)

Have you ever wanted something so much that you tried too hard to get it. Maybe you wanted someone to like you and be your friend, and tried too hard to be popular. Maybe you tried to convince someone to see things your way. Or maybe you wanted to master a skill and tried so hard that you got in your own way.

Sometimes we want to be good Christians and try so hard that we get in our own way. We try to convince people to join us in following Jesus. We try so hard to change ourselves and our friends and family that we drive ourselves crazy and drive our friends and family away.

Maybe we need to follow the example of Jesus. The Gospels tell us that on a number of occasions, Jesus seemed to be more interested in getting away from people and telling them why they shouldn't follow him than seeking people out. People would seek him out, but he would withdraw to deserted places by himself. People would volunteer to follow him, but he would make them think about it first.

It may seem counter-intuitive, but stepping back and not trying so hard may be the most faithful (and ultimately the most successful) course of action. The best way to invite someone to join you as a disciple of Jesus may simply be to be like Jesus: spend time with God alone.

"But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

Dear God: I want so much to serve you and follow Jesus, but sometimes I try too hard. Help me to have confidence in your love and grace and remember to spend time with you. Amen.