

“Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.” (Ps. 25:3)

Lead me, guide me, show me Your ways, Your paths. This is what teachers do. They don't just dump knowledge on their students and expect us to get it right off the bat. It's a process of education, experience, and transformation. For Christians, it's a lifetime effort, progressing towards the goal of God's Kin-dom. There is no such thing as an instantaneous saint.

It's September. And I usually say that it's back-to-school time, but what does that even mean in this time of pandemic? Furthermore, discipleship never has summers off. It's always the season for learning, speaking for myself as a lifelong learner. Clearly, there are no clear paths to learning or staying healthy, risk-free of the Covid-19 virus. But that doesn't stop the multitudes from trying and striving to provide educational access and healthcare. Whether we are charged with teaching youth or adult alike, everyone is getting pretty creative and finding paths and ways to do this, St. Andrew's included!

Likewise, Jesus was faced with insurmountable odds with the embedded attitudes that are self-serving and focused on self-preservation over care and concern for those most vulnerable. Jesus, as the Master Teacher has divine insight into the minds of his constituents – sinners, who come in every size, shape, color, and uniqueness; but all made in the image of God.

The upcoming teachings over the next few weeks reveal the divine desire for humankind to learn the concept of self-emptying over self-preservation; to attend to human need and suffering over dismissal and contempt. We're taught through the encounters between Jesus and pharisaical mindsets, that 'tis better to recognize our weaknesses, admit our shortcomings and renew our minds than to say we'll do something that God wants and then walk away. Intention counts. Jesus wants us to walk back, towards Him, on His path. He'll lead us and guide us. And as many times as we fall away, he'll reach out and take our hand again.

If you find yourself looking for some assistance in renewing the praxis of your Christian faith, there are opportunities for conversation, Bible study, and worship that may offer the word you are seeking to hear as well as the place and time to speak and name aloud the areas in which you hope to grow. Check out the resources that are available for discipleship through our website, YouTube channel, Facebook and one-on-one appointments with myself and others in leadership at our parish.

Blessings and peace be upon you, prayers for your health and well-being,
faithfully,
Amma Susan+