

# Retreat Conference 2

## The Necessity of Trust as a Friend of Christ and a Friend for Christ, Part I

### Hebrews 13:5 (Douay-Rheims Bible)

“Let your manners be without covetousness, contented with such things as you have; for he hath said: I will not leave thee, neither will I forsake thee.”

**Jesus meets little James.** How to keep weaknesses, defects, frailties, and limitations from taking away one’s happiness, but instead becoming an opportunity for trust and a source of gratitude.

*(The Chosen, Season 3, Episode 2: Jesus’ Encounter with Little James)*

- **Little James asks to speak to Jesus about a personal concern.**
  - We call being in dialogue with Jesus – prayer.
  - It’s about his infirmity as he is being sent out by Christ as 1 of the 72.
  - In his judgement, he wants to be healed in order to better serve.
  
- **Jesus wants Little James to accept his infirmity rather than be cured.**
  - He wants Little James to accept the irony of physically healing others while not being physically healed himself.
  - God’s ways are not our ways.
  - What greater good does God’s way bring to James’ consciousness?
  
- **Jesus leads Little James from acceptance to joy as His beloved disciple.**
  - Litany of Humility, Cardinal Sarah’s addition – “Lord, I want to rejoice at begin deprived of the natural perfections of body and mind.”

- **Jesus asks Little James to trust Him.**
  
- **St. Paul had a similar experience of needing to trust as he encountered Christ in prayer.**
  - “Three times I begged the Lord that this might leave me. He said to me, “My grace is enough for you, for in weakness power reaches perfection.” And so, I willingly boast of my weaknesses instead, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I am content with weakness, with mistreatment, with distress, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ; for when I am powerless, it is then that I am strong.”  
(2 Cor. 12:8-10)
  
- **Weaknesses and limitations personally accepted and being responsible for are avenues that point us to seek God’s help and grow in relationship to Him.**
  
- **Reflection questions that can help discern your trust in God facing up to your weaknesses, defects, frailties, and limitations as you begin the mission of being a spiritual mentor:**
  - Can you be grateful for your weaknesses, defects, frailties, and limitations, as these difficulties are meant for you to turn toward God for help, a means of experiencing more intimacy with Him?
  - Do you see the value of practicing patient endurance (perseverance), as well as humility rather than being consumed with the obsession of perfectionism?
  - Have you conceded that in its most fundamental dimensions your life is unmanageable, that you need Christ?
  - Do you see how God cares for you, giving meaning and order to those countless aspects of life over which you have no control?
  - Are you convinced enough (which is faith) to acknowledge that when God stretches your heart, (a condition of becoming holy), you will be rewarded with greater happiness?
  - Do you see the necessity of living in the peace of Christ in order to be His disciple?

**Summary:** *Not even our weaknesses, defects, frailties, and limitations can keep us from happiness, if we are united with Christ as His intimate friend. In fact, Jesus has so completely conquered sin and death, that we can use our weaknesses, defects, frailties, and limitations to come to Him.*

Turn to Him in prayer. “Jesus, I trust in You, help me in my weaknesses, defects, frailties, and limitations. I truly stand before You as your child.”

**Pause to Reflect:**

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