

**Shaping the Franciscan Footprint  
Five Important Spiritual Thoughts from the Liturgy of the Word  
...and follow up for the Secular Franciscan  
September 28 – October 5**

**1 -- "Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him." (Jn 1:47)\*\***

...No duplicity means that Nathanael was "real" and not "fake." Is my commitment to Jesus as strong as it should be?

**2 – "I have dealt with great things that I do not understand; things too wonderful for me, which I cannot know." (Job 42:3)**

...When I don't understand the Lord's way...

**3 – "When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'" (LK 17:10)\*\***

...Am I conducting my life as if I were a servant to others?

**4 -- "And who is my neighbor?" (The Good Samaritan) (Lk 10:29)\*\***

...Go and do likewise, Jesus says

Extended meditation:

Jesus cared about people. The fact is documented throughout the Gospels. One time in Matthew's Gospel, he had retreated a while to mourn the loss of a friend. But when he saw how the crowds seemed to be searching for something, he left his meditation in order to help them.

Jesus's care is often translated as "pity" or "compassion." The derivation of the word "compassion" presents a learning possibility. It comes from the Latin *cum patio*, meaning a feeling with the pain of someone else. The person who possesses such a virtue, as Jesus certainly did, studies the painful situation of another and desires to do something about it.

In real life, compassion is expressed in various ways. One notable way was exemplified by a football coach and his words of "Maybe I can help." Coach Jack Lengyel was enjoying a good career as head football coach at the College of Wooster in Northeast Ohio, and he heard about a disaster of monumental proportions in nearby Huntington, West Virginia. The complete football team and coaches of Marshall University in that city were killed in a tragic air accident as they were returning from an away football game.

When Coach Lengyel read of the tragedy, he thought of the pain of the people left behind and the pain of the University personnel in particular.

Knowing that he could accomplish something, he wrote to the University president volunteering his services, saying "Maybe I can help." He probably had some idea of what it would take to carry out his words, but he was to discover great personal cost, great resistance from the city and University, and the pains of beginning with absolutely nothing and building a complete football program. But he cared; he had compassion. (Movie: "We Are Marshall")

A Christian generally speaking will not have the opportunity to show such care or compassion, to be sure. But if she or he truly understands Jesus's words, then Coach Lengyel's words will ring true in their minds, "Maybe I can help."

It is interesting to note that Jack Lengyel about 40 years later, lent his expertise to a school in Bathurst, New Brunswick, Canada who suffered a similar tragedy.

Indeed, the Christian may not know what to do, may have no idea of the amount of work it will take, not even know where to begin. But a true Christian will have the attitude of wanting to help others.

Wanting to help or simply trying to care can accomplish great things.

**5 -- Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." (Lk 10:42)\*\***

...Have I established a good prayer pattern in my daily life?

\*\* denotes one of the most important passages of the Gospel

Fr. Mike's website: [www.frmikescully.com](http://www.frmikescully.com)