

Personal Practice: Love/ Lent

We Wish to See Jesus

Supplies:

- Bible
- Paper or Journal, pen or pencil

In John 12:20–21, a group of Greeks (Gentiles, unbelievers) came to the disciples and said, “We wish to see Jesus.”

Some things never change. The world still wants to see Jesus. People on the outside look into the church, and what they see is often empty, meaningless ritual, or incomprehensible doctrine, or even flagrant hypocrisy. And they turn away, because what they really want is to see Jesus. They look to us and hope to find care and compassion, forgiveness, a new start, acceptance, wisdom, welcome, justice, and grace.

People want to see Jesus. But Jesus is not here on earth—not in the flesh, anyway. Jesus is only here in spirit, in our hearts, as we walk in the way of love and live out the message of love in our own lives. Those of us who call ourselves Christians have a responsibility to live out our faith in our daily lives, to offer to people around us a meaningful engagement with the Holy. For better or worse, we represent Jesus in this world. That is our mission and our call—to reveal Jesus to others in ways they can understand.

Let’s get beyond the “do’s” and “don’ts,” of the dogma and the doctrine.

Who is Jesus, really?

How does Jesus manifest something of God’s character in human form?

What do you think are Jesus’ most important characteristics?

Love? Forgiveness? Empathy? Justice?

Make a list.

What do people see when they look at you? How can you begin today to show them who Jesus really is?



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