



Following Jesus: Beyond Belief

“This people honors me with their lips,” Jesus said, “but their hearts are far from me.” Jesus was looking for people who would believe in him not just with their lips and heads but with their entire lives: “Follow me!” That’s his same desire today. And of course, following him is far more difficult and challenging than just believing in him! This retreat will help us discover the beauty and challenge of genuine discipleship – and the fulfilling joy it opens up to us all.

SCHEDULE OF SILENT THEME RETREATS 2010-2011

September 24-26 (Women)

November 12-14 (Women & Men)
*(“Sponsored” by Stevens Point and Wausau Area)**

January 14-16 (Women & Men)
*(“Sponsored” by WI Rapids Area)**

February 4-6 (Men)

April 15-17 (Women)

Offering: \$150.00
**(includes private room
and all meals)**

These retreats are silent.

Retreats begin with 7:00 p.m. meal on Friday and conclude with the noon meal on Sunday.

* While “sponsored” by the named area, these retreats are open to ALL individuals from All areas

Special Short Mid-Week Silent Theme Retreat

October 6-7 (Women & Men)
Begins with the noon meal on the 6th; concludes at 4:00 p.m. on the 7th.

Offering: \$ 95.00

SUMMARY OF THE TALKS

First talk: “Jesus before Christianity: the Way”

The early Christians were known simply as those who followed “the Way.” And of course, that often meant the possibility of following Jesus all the way to martyrdom. When persecutions ceased, Christianity became the state religion – and people thought they could be Christians simply by believing in Jesus. Religion, Christianity, can pull us together in our beliefs, but if we aren’t followers of the Way, we’ve lost our way!

Second talk: “Falling in Love with the One Who Has Fallen in Love with Us”

What motivates anyone to follow this Way? It’s discovering again and again the overwhelming mystery of a God who loves us so much as to become one of us – and then even die for us! “In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us.” This is the love that transformed Francis and all the saints – and is waiting to transform us as well.

Third talk: “Following the Way ALL the Way”

The early disciples were like us: it’s fairly easy to follow Jesus as long as things go well, other people appreciate us, etc. But when things don’t go well, when suffering, pain or rejection comes along we complain and feel like deserting Jesus – because hasn’t he deserted us? We need to listen again to Jesus calling us to follow him ALL the way! It’s the way of all true love; it can sometimes hurt!

Fourth talk: “Look at the Joy!”

When we “keep our eyes fixed on Jesus” and trust in His love, especially in times of difficulty, we gradually experience inner transformation. We’re becoming more human, more whole – and look at the joy that we experience and bring to others. Isn’t that how it’s meant to be? Jesus said, “I’m telling you all this so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.” It’s Good News! And how the world needs this!