

## JESUS AS SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

### Some Definitions of Spiritual Direction:

Jean Laplace “The help one Christian gives to another to enable that person to become himself/herself in faith”

William Connolly: “Privileged communication with another member of the Church about his/her relationship with God”

Eugene Marz: “The spiritual director is one with whom I share my vision of the Lord and the Lord’s vision of me, one to whom I say, ‘Keep me true to this vision, i.e., help me to be faithful’”

Adrian van Kaam: “Spirit-supported, prudent, educated and well-informed personal assistance that is dialogical, an assistance in unconditional faith, hope and love, given to a fellow Christian’s attempt to discover and realize his/her self direction in Christ”

Jesus did not set out to be a spiritual director, so we cannot “read it into” the gospels. Rather, we watch Jesus interacting with people to see if we can learn things about ourselves as directors and directees.

### Jesus and Peter—significant moments in an ongoing relationship:

- 1) They meet—Matthew 4. John 1 and Luke 5
- 2) Storm on the lake—Matthew 14:23–33
- 3) Peter’s profession of faith—Matthew 16:13–20 and 21–28
- 4) Dialogue about forgiveness—Matthew 18:21ff.
- 5) Transfiguration—Matthew 17:1–9
- 6) Prediction of the denials—Luke 22:31–34
- 7) Washing of the feet—John 13:3ff.
- a) Peter and the passion and death of Jesus—Matthew 26:31–75
- 9) Resurrection—John 20:1–10 and 19–23
- 10) Love and forgiveness—John 21
- 11) Life-long development—Peter in Acts and Galatians

### Other fruitful passages for this approach:

John 4—the woman at the well  
Luke 24:13–35—Emmaus walk

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