

## Courageous Discipleship

### **The call to discipleship**

(excerpt from *Jesus: An Historical Approximation*, José A. Pagola)

*“Jesus’ life as an itinerant brought him very close to the world of indigents. He lived practically as one of them, homeless and without stable employment. He lived among the excluded ones, seeking the reign of God and his justice. Soon he invited the group of followers gathering around him to do the same. They would share the life of those poor. For Jesus, that was the best place to embrace and proclaim the reign of God. Jesus is a realist. He has no political or religious power to transform that situation. He is the prophet of God’s mercy, himself one of the last. His word does not mean an immediate end to the hunger and misery of these people, but it does mean unyielding dignity for all the victims of abuse and exploitation. Everyone needs to know that these people in particular are God’s favourite children, which makes their dignity absolutely real. Their life is sacred. The only way to accept God is to build a world whose first priority is the dignity of the last.”*



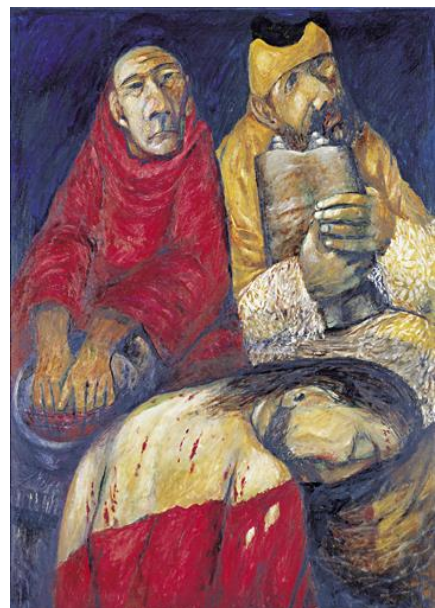
### **Changed for the Healing of the World | John Philip Newell**

That truth has been inscribed into our hearts  
and into the heart of every human being,  
there to be read and revered,  
thanks be to you, O God.

That there are ways of seeing  
and sensitivities of knowing  
hidden deep in the palace of the soul,  
waiting to be discovered,  
ready to be set free,  
thanks be to you.

Open our senses to wisdom’s inner promptings  
that we may give voice to what we hear in our soul  
and be changed for the healing of the world,  
that we may listen for truth in every living soul  
and be changed for the well-being of the world.

-from *Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter*.



**Turn to the 'Courage Resource' on Mission & Discipleship:**

<http://www.kildareministries.org.au/courage.html>

**Read through slides 3 & 4**

**Respond to the questions on slide 4 (click on 'Q')**



*Mentor of my life, you invite me to follow you. You give me the courage to do so. It is risky to go in your way. Help me to trust in you, especially on those days when I feel a lack of security or when I face the challenge of standing up for your truth.*

*- Joyce Rupp, Out of the Ordinary*