

## Am I Worthy Enough to be a Part of Christ's Mission?

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the *London Times* once sent out an inquiry to famous authors, asking the question, "What's wrong with the world today?" The famous Catholic author G.K. Chesterton responded simply,

Dear Sirs,  
I am.  
Sincerely Yours,  
G.K. Chesterton.

Chesterton also said that whenever he went to the non-Catholic churches, he would customarily leave his umbrella by the back door during the worship service. In these churches, his umbrella would always be there waiting for him when he went back out. But the first time Chesterton went into a Catholic church to hear Mass, his umbrella disappeared from the back of the church. Someone had stolen it.

His conclusion? If the Catholic Church offered such a generous and open doorway to the rabble, being a home for both sinners and saints, then he had indeed found a home where he could also fumble along into the Kingdom. He added, "Everyone on this earth should believe, amid whatever madness or moral failure, that his life and temperament have some object on the earth. Everyone on the earth should believe that he has something to give to the world which cannot otherwise be given."

So often in the Bible when God called people to carry out a special mission for Him they objected. Abraham and Sarah said they were too old. Moses said he was not a good public speaker. Jeremiah said he was too young. Amos said he was a simple tree surgeon. Isaiah and Peter both said they were too sinful. And Paul said he was too weak. To each of these, God's answer was the same: "Be not afraid, trust me, I am with you, my power will supply for what you lack, *just do it.*"

God doesn't call the perfect; He perfects the called as they do their best to be faithful to the mission entrusted to them. And God's mission for all of us is clear—to love Him by making the world under our influence more kind, forgiving, just, humble, truthful, pure, courageous, merciful, loving, etc.

It's really quite simple, but not at all easy.

I grew up in a household ravaged by a brutal divorce, and it left deep marks in me. When I was in my 20s and decided to marry Patti Masters, I feared that what had happened to me in my childhood would make me incapable of being a good father and husband. Thank God, my wise grandfather was very much aware of this, and wrote these words to me just after our first son was born:

Don't believe people when they say to you that you become a father when your child is born. You don't become a father when your child is born. Your child will rip fatherhood

out of you. With every cry, every smile, every success, every tragedy they will make you into a man you could never have become without them. As William Wordsworth put it, "The child is the father of the man." Your son will teach you how to love him if you let him. Don't worry, God will give you what you need, when you need it.

A priest in Confession once said to me, "So you're not worthy! Get over yourself, get up and get on with it." That's it! So let's get on with our very human mission and be made worthy by divine love.



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