

WHAT DID JESUS TEACH?:

1. Open up your Bible (or look up the text online), and find the recounting of one of the many miracles of Jesus in any of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John). Read and prayerfully reflect on that passage (e.g. you could read about Jesus' first miracle of changing water into wine in John 2:1-12). What strikes you?
2. In what ways is living in the kingdom of God "kind of like standing on your head; it's upside-down in relation to the world"? How have you experienced this to be the case in your own life?
3. "The love of God is unconditional and unbounded. We can't earn it, or lose it." How does this statement make you feel?
4. What are some practical ways we can follow the first and greatest Commandment: "to love God with all we've got"? How are you doing with following that Commandment? What could you do to better express love for God?
5. What are some practical ways we can follow the second greatest Commandment: "to love our neighbor as we are loved by God"? How are you doing with following that Commandment? What could you do to better love your neighbor (i.e. anyone in need)?
6. "Heaven is felt as the sublime bliss derived from the quieting of our desires, because they are all satisfied by our perfect union with God." Does this statement change your perspective on Heaven at all? How does understanding Heaven in this way affect the way you look at and live life here and now?
7. Based on the section on "Hell," how would you describe it? What must one do to avoid going to Hell?
8. If someone were to ask you to describe what you believe about Purgatory as a Catholic Christian, what would you say? Reread the section entitled "Purgatory" and try to summarize those teachings in your own words. Then, offer a prayer for the souls in Purgatory (you can use the traditional "Eternal rest grant unto them..." prayer or your own words).