

#16: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Listen to track 16 of *Songs of Justice and Peace*.

You can find the words in RW 279. (Renewing Worship)

Scripture: Matt. 19:16-22

“Go... sell... give... follow...”

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” Mahatma Gandhi

St. Francis of Assisi lived hundreds of years before Gandhi made this statement, yet St. Francis embodied this sentiment as few others have. Born into a family of wealth and privilege, the young Francis lived a life of self-indulgent pleasure. A serious illness and a vision from God helped him see that his self-centered lifestyle served no one, honored no one, and would eventually lead to his demise. Francis became a changed man, giving his wealth to the poor and preaching the love of God to all who would listen – including the birds of the fields!

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Francis became the change he saw that the world needed. Could that same Spirit be speaking to you?

Reflection:

Does a person have to be poor to serve God? What other physical obstacles or personal concerns can hold one back from seeing needs and seeking God?

How do the words of the song reflect Francis' changed attitude and life-style?

Why do you suppose both Jesus and Gandhi advocated personal change?

Prayer:

Spirit of God, grant me the vision to see the changes I need to make in myself to help bring about the justice and peace you so want for our world. Grant me the courage to follow through in Jesus' name. Amen.

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