

Freedom in Abandonment

A prayer service to be used at the conclusion of Chapter 5 of Encountering Jesus in the New Testament.

Leader: Bl. Charles de Foucauld (1858–1916) was a French priest and Trappist monk who appreciated the solitude of the desert. He was assassinated by a gang of armed bandits while in Northern Africa. He is considered a martyr of the Church. Charles' life was one of increasing abandonment to the worldly ideals of success. Yet, he found true freedom in giving his life over to Jesus. Together, let us pray the words that he wrote:

All: Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures—I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father. Amen.

Leader: Charles' life was a series of abandonments to a live freely in Christ. From being a successful military officer, to leaving a monastery, to become a hermit, Charles was not afraid of searching for what would bring him closer to Christ. Let us pray together, through Charles' intercession, that we too might be truly free to follow Christ.

Reader 1: Jesus, we come today asking for freedom from anything or anyone that does not bring us closer to you.

All: I choose to live in the freedom Jesus has given me.

Reader 2: Jesus, we ask for freedom from any addictions that might control us.

All: I choose to live in the freedom Jesus has given me.

Reader 3: Jesus, we ask freedom from insecurities and beliefs that we are unworthy of your love.

All: I choose to live in the freedom Jesus has given me.

Leader: Gracious Father, help me to use my freedom to live as a servant to You alone, knowing that if anyone who abandons themselves to your care will be rewarded greatly. Amen.