

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHRIST

To understand our own life, it is necessary for us to make a careful and correct study of the Life of Christ. However, we must be careful not to allow ourselves to be taken in by the external and imaginative features of Christ. We must not fancy ourselves to be following in Christ's footsteps just because we are given to certain practices of virtue (sometime invented practices), which bear some resemblance exteriorly to those which He exhibited. It is true that to imitate Christ is to act as He acted, but it is equally true that such imitation would be out of balance, even quite empty, if our will were not determined – seriously determined – to try to THINK as He thought as regards the humble attitude which formed His mind and heart; as regards the spirit of holy obedience which gave direction to every act He performed; as regards the charity which gave true and perfect meaning to every breath He took; as regards the purpose of life – His life and our life. To make our quest after sanctity issue forth into any real transformation of our souls – *CONVERSIO* – we must make a study of the interior dispositions that prevailed in the mind and heart and soul of our Blessed Lord. We must grasp the broad principle according to which He worked out His life's task. Misdirected attention to the details of the footsteps Christ took while on earth can give but small result when compared to the results apprehended when we work to comprehend and strive to accept Christ's whole mental attitude towards life itself. If we seize and strive to accept Christ's whole mental attitude and if we try steadily to adjust our own to it, we shall, in spite of our constant lapses in religious practices and of repeated falls into sin, still secure ourselves against that agonizing sense of failure and loss which torments so many at the close of life – AT THE MOMENT OF DEATH! □

