

## **O Course I Want To**

Even so, people from all around would come to him

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Why

Why did the people seek out Jesus

Was it to enter the challenge of life

Or to escape from it

Was it to find the way to engage with the encounter

Or to find someone who would relieve the follower from the responsibility

Most of the Apostles died as martyrs

Most of the great Saints lived most interesting lives

Most of that which of value has a cost

The greater the value

The greater the cost

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Elsewhere Jesus proclaims

I am the way, the truth, and the life

In what way are you going to face the challenge

What truth are you prepared to accept

Which life are you open to

Those who seek out Christ can find the faith and courage to make the attempt  
Those who learn to walk with faith may learn to discern without certainty  
Those who are prepared to take up the cross can abandon the illusion of security

Why did the people seek out Jesus

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Or to escape from it

The love you have for another, will demand of you a reconciliation with self, which will demand  
painful honesty

The love you have for another will draw you into the struggle not excuse you from it

The love you have for your children will demand the faith to let them go.

The love you have for your children will draw you into the struggle not excuse you from it

The true love you have for

Justice

For beauty

For dignity

For Art

For sport

For anything of value

Will demand commitment

Will draw you into the struggle not excuse you from it

But then what is the alternative

The loneliness of self-obsession

The exhaustion, destruction and rebellion of control

The death of the soul

When justice is another's concern

Beauty only a blind acceptance of the norm  
Dignity only a word taken from others and used in self-protection  
Art only as profound as a pop song  
Sport only for observation, argument and disdain  
All of value  
Undermined by the fear of commitment  
By the fear of anything that will draw you into the struggle

Why did the people seek out Jesus

Was it to enter the challenge of life  
Or to escape from it

“If you want to” said the leper, “you can cure me”  
“Of course I want to” said Jesus

Why did the people seek out Jesus

Was it to enter the challenge of life  
Or to escape from it

If you chose Christ  
You choose life  
If you choose Christ  
You choose commitment  
If you seek out Christ  
Do not be surprised that you find a journey  
Of ever changing challenge  
And I can assure you  
It is exhausting.