

A Great Divide

The topic of success has been occupying space in my brain lately. We humans seem to be hard-wired to strive for success - at least many do. But, in this striving, are we not creating, yet another, great divide. If we continue to measure each other in terms of success, who are we leaving behind? Was Jesus successful in worldly terms? Did he focus on acquiring possessions, titles or fame? Or, did he let success be ultimately God's business, not his own. In his new book, *Tatoos on the Heart - the Power of Boundless Compassion*, Father Greg Boyle says: "For once you choose to hang out with folks who carry more burden than they can bear, all bets seem to be off. Salivating for success keeps you from being faithful, keeps you from seeing whoever's sitting in front of you." He goes on to say: "Success and failure, ultimately, have little to do with living the gospel. Jesus just stood with the outcasts until they were welcomed or until he was crucified - whichever came first."

I don't really have any answers. Ministry can often be messy and filled with disappointment. We do need to grow, study, learn and work towards becoming the people that God has designed us to be. I think Mother Teresa gets it right. She says: "We're not called to be successful but faithful." And in that faithfulness, we are re-united - bringing an end to the great divide.

In Christ,
Mary Anderson