

ONE DAY HE BECKONED

*One Woman's Story of the
Difference Jesus Made*

By Antoinette Bosco

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Jesus calls us all to follow him, and Antoinette Bosco has experienced this call in a real and tangible way that can enlighten the rest of us about what it means to respond to that call. As a young teenager she saw a vision of Jesus beckoning her, which most immediately led her to a picture of the very image of Jesus she had just seen. More importantly, this vision of Jesus beckoning became a central image in her life, providing both comfort and challenge.

Drawing largely on Matthew 25, she tells how she has been called to live the gospel of love. Her father first taught her the valuable lesson of love and care for others, a care that cost him a job. She learned early in life that responding to Jesus' call is not risk free, a lesson which she would learn personally and painfully several more times.

However, the cost of following Jesus is far less than the rewards and the joy that comes from answering his call is evident throughout the book and throughout her life. What wondrous things can happen when we open our eyes to see as Jesus did and answer his call! Unexpected blessings flow, as when the author, a young mother of 22, was led to adopt a teenage boy. She learns to find Jesus in each

meeting, as we do while we accompany her on this faith journey.

“Meeting Jesus in life-changing ways always happens on his schedule, not ours.”

In her life, we find heart-breaking stories of loss, in which Jesus is the only one who can comfort. We see her search for meaning and answers at these times of loss and death, as well as her hope found in Jesus' call and his resurrection. She teaches us in this book about moving beyond grief and pain, with Jesus always close by. Her look at war, including personal and family stories from WWI through the Gulf War, is particularly relevant in our troubled times; her focus on listening to what Jesus calls us to do at such times is crucial to our task as Christians.

The work of Christ is never finished, and she keeps him alive through hard work, seeing Christ's presence in others and striving to be Christ's presence to others. Great joy comes with this hard work, the joy of God ever present. Let this joy flow through this book and into your life.

Questions For Reflection/Discussion

- Where do you find God's joy in your life? Have circumstances ever made you feel distant from God? How did you hear God's call at that time?

- Where has the search for meaning in hard times, such as the death of a loved one, led you?
- Antoinette Bosco says that Jesus is full of surprises. How has he surprised you?

Antoinette Bosco explores the themes of suffering, forgiveness, faith, peace, and living a Christian life through stories of her personal journey.

- Have any of her stories changed how you think about these themes? Where has your faith journey led you?

About The Author

Antoinette Bosco is the author of numerous articles, eleven books, and her own column for Catholic News Service. Born in New York to immigrant parents, she raised seven children, six of them while she was a single mother. Her previous book, *Choosing Mercy, A Mother of Murder Victims Pleads to End the Death Penalty*, won the Christopher Award and a Pax Christi award in 2002.