

“IS THERE HOPE? THE FASCINATION OF THE DISCOVERY”

25. “How do you recognize among the many faces, *the face?*”

“When the presence of Jesus began to impose itself and His fame started spreading because of the things He said and did, different interpretations about Him also began to circulate, with the complicity of those who felt their power and ‘authority’ undermined, that is, the Pharisees and scribes, the intellectuals and leaders of the people. How did the first people who took up with Him understand that it was worthwhile to follow Him, to bind themselves to Him, to wager all their life on Him?

How do you recognize among the many faces, *the face?* What criterion can be used? [...] The one adequate criterion for recognizing the presences that bring an adequate meaning to life is the one with which nature projects us in the universal comparison with everything we encounter: the heart, namely, that set of needs—for truth, beauty, justice, and happiness—and evidence that emerge in us when we are engaged with what we pass through. [...]

These criteria that operate inside us even in spite of ourselves are objective and infallible, and they do not spare us one bit. [...]

We cannot elude the constitutive criteria of the heart, the need for meaning, justice, happiness, and love. They can be silenced or censured up to a certain point, but they cannot be uprooted. They are internal to experience. [...] ‘If it were not true that the principles with which to judge one’s own experience lie within experience itself, people would be alienated because they would have to depend on something other than themselves to judge themselves.’ These needs are not born in what people experience, but ‘are born in them in front of what they experience, in them engaged in what they go through’ (Giussani), and these needs judge what they experience.”

(J. Carrón, *Is There Hope? The Fascination of the Discovery*, HAB, Tampa & Denver 2021, pp. 79–81)

We suggest you to read Martino’s testimony: “[Here, you even forget you have a cell phone](#)”, [clonline.org](#)

What are you willing to wager all your life on?

We remind you that it is possible to send questions and witnesses to the website <http://eventi.comunioneliberazione.org/gscontributi/>