

An Online Spiritual Journey

Vocational Virtual Retreat

SESSION 4
The Mirror



**Brothers of
the Christian
Schools**

LISTEN

Find a quiet place. Close your eyes and prepare your body for this session.

When you're ready, please say:

"Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God."

Be aware of what's going on around you.

Play now the following video:



A YouTube video player interface. The video title is "Philippe Petit Walks a Tightrope Between the Twin Towers in 1974". The video shows a man in a dark suit walking a tightrope between two tall buildings. The video player includes a play button in the center, a "Watch later" button, and a "Share" button. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for "NYDN" (New York Daily News) with the text "Watch on YouTube". In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code.

DAILY NEWS VIDEO Philippe Petit Walks a Tightrope Between the Twin Towers in 1974 Watch later Share

Watch on YouTube NYDN

Read carefully .



“If I see three oranges, I have to juggle. And If I see two towers, I have to walk.”

These remarkable words were spoken by the tightrope-walker, Phillipe Petit, in answer to the question of the police as to why he walked (at 7:50 A.M.) on a rope shot with a crossbow from one tower of the New York World Trade Center to the other.

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I have been thinking today, on and off, about this beautiful man Phillipe Petit. His answer to the police is priceless and deserves long meditation. We always want answers to impossible questions. Why do you love her?

Any answer to such a question is usually ridiculous. Because she is pretty? Because she has a pretty pimple on her nose? Why did you become a priest? Because you like to preach? Why did you become a monk? Because you like silence? There are no answers to those questions.

When they asked Phillipe why he wanted to walk on a slender wire between the two tallest towers of New York City, everyone thought he did it for money, for publicity, for fame. But he said, "If I see three oranges, I have to juggle. And if I see two towers, I have to walk."

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We don't believe the most meaningful answer. We think that this man must be insane. In fact, they took Phillipe to a city hospital for a psychiatric examination but soon found out that Phillipe was as healthy as could be. "Sane and ebullient," says the newspaper.

His is the true answer. Why do you love her? When I say her, I loved her. Why are you a priest? Because I must be a priest. Why do I pray? Because when I see God, I must pray.

There is an inner must, an inner urge, or an inner call that answers all those questions which are beyond explanation. Never does anyone who asks a monk why he became a monk receive a satisfying answer. Nor do children give us an explanation when we ask them, "Why do you play ball?" They know there is no answer except, "When I see a ball, I have to play with it."



PAUSE

Focus your
attention on the
story.

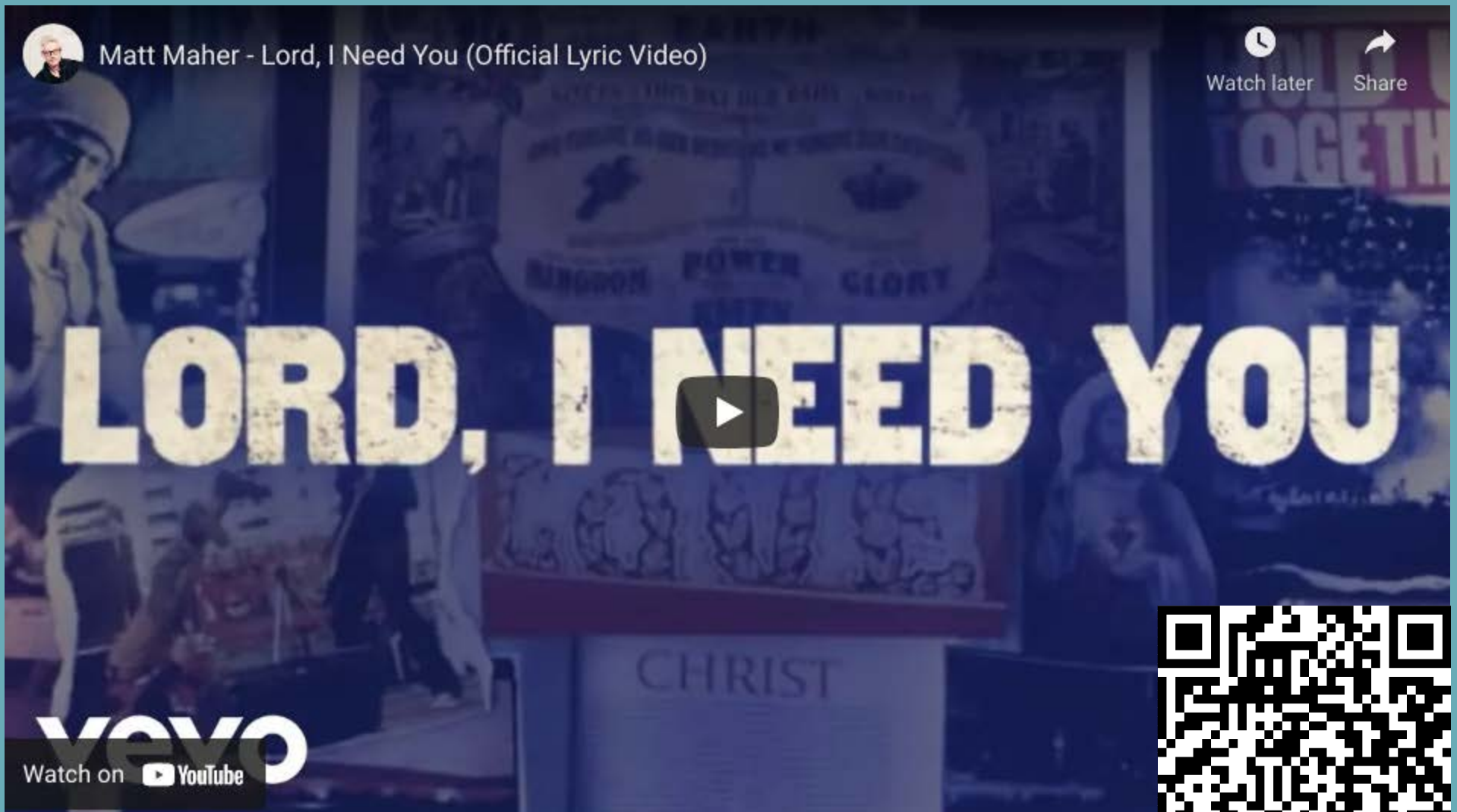
Recall Phillipe's
answer.

Imagine the scene.



Remember: It's not all in your head.
It's also in your heart

Before the next step,
listen to the song:



The image shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top left, there is a circular profile picture of Matt Maher and the text "Matt Maher - Lord, I Need You (Official Lyric Video)". At the top right, there are icons for "Watch later" and "Share". The main video area features a dark, textured background with the title "LORD, I NEED YOU" in large, white, distressed font. A play button icon is centered over the title. In the bottom left corner, there is a "vevo" logo and the text "Watch on YouTube". In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code.

"I CALL YOU FRIENDS"

DISCERN

You are doing this virtual retreat to connect with yourself.

Please use a mirror to discern the following questions:

What is my inner must?
My inner Urge?
My inner Call?



PRAY

13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

John 15:13-15

Please Listen to the Audio Reading.

How should I Answer to Jesus?

Talk with Jesus.. feel free to call him Friend, Brother, Teacher, Lord, Christ... You can start by saying: Jesus, I thank you for this moment...

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*Young people need the
light of watchful guides
to lead them on the
path of salvation.”*

ST. JOHN BAPTIST
DE LA SALLE,
PATRON SAINT
OF TEACHERS

ACT

Create a commitment for your day.
(You can write it on your notebook)
Promise yourself to continue with
the next session.



Please know that I will keep you in prayer
as you make this retreat.

Let's talk...
Brother Edward
shields@fscdena.org
718-809-1220



EXPLORING YOUR VOCATION AS A CHRISTIAN BROTHER