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Sedute seminariali del pomeriggio

Filial identity and Discipleship in Matthew

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Matthew's gospel is unique in its extensive and selective presentation of God as the Father of the disciples. Out of fifty references to God as the Father of human beings in the NT, twenty-one are in Matthew (Mark 1x; Luke 4x; John 3x; Paul 19x; the rest 2x) and in all these twenty-one occurrences God is referred to specifically as the Father of the disciples. Similarly, the Father-children relationship is reserved as a privilege of those who follow Jesus. So Jesus speaks about the Father only to them (see 5,16; 6,1-18 etc).

In this seminar we intend to look at discipleship in Matthew from the perspective of the above mentioned relationship. After a brief examination of various views on discipleship in Matthew, we will study some of the texts from the Sermon on the Mount where God is referred to as the Father of the disciples most intensively. It will be followed by group interaction exploring the possibility of defining the concept of discipleship in Matthew based on the filial identity of the disciples.

A short bibliography

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