

LENT
2016

SHARING JESUS

Talk 3: Sharing a Relationship

Quote 1: “Pastoral ministry in a missionary style is not obsessed with the disjointed transmission of a multitude of doctrines to be insistently imposed. When we adopt a pastoral goal and a missionary style which would actually reach everyone without exception or exclusion, the message has to concentrate on the essentials, on what is most beautiful, most grand, most appealing and at the same time most necessary. The message is simplified, while losing none of its depth and truth, and thus becomes all the more forceful and convincing.” *Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 35.*

Quote 2: “Before being sent to evangelize, the disciples would have to be with Jesus, establishing a personal relationship with him. With this foundation, evangelization is no more than a proclamation of what has been experienced and an invitation to enter into the mystery of friendship with Christ.”
Pope Benedict XVI, March 2006.

Quote 3: “Father, in love you created us, in justice you condemned us, but in mercy you redeemed us, through Christ our Lord.” *Preface of Weekday Mass II*

Quote 4: “But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.” *Romans 5:8*

Quote 5: “But to all who believed in him, who received him, he gave the power to be children of God.” *John 1:12*

Quote 6: “This is the essence of witnessing—simply sharing your personal experiences regarding the Lord. In a courtroom, a witness is not expected to argue the case, prove the truth, or press for a verdict; that is the job of the attorneys. Witnesses simply report what happened. You may not be a Bible scholar, but you are the authority of your life, and it’s hard to argue with personal experience. Your personal testimony is more effective than a sermon because unbelievers see pastors as professional salesmen, but see you as a satisfied customer, so they give you more credibility.” *Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Life*

Small Group Questions

- 1) What was the most significant insight you gained from Fr. Matt’s homily this week?
- 2) Why should Jesus allow you into heaven?
- 3) How has Jesus worked in your life? Have you been moved in any way (for example, from resentment to forgiveness, from sickness to health, from sin to freedom, from isolation to community)?
- 4) Briefly talk about one person you would like to share your personal testimony with?
- 5) Do you have someone you find it hard to share your faith with?
- 6) How does Rick Warren’s quote above on being a witness help you?
- 7) Share any opportunity you have had recently to befriend someone or to share Christ with them in anyway.