

LENT
2016

SHARING JESUS

Talk 5: Sharing Mercy

Quote 1: "In today's world of instant communication and occasionally biased media coverage, the message we preach runs a greater risk of being distorted or reduced to some of its secondary aspects. In this way certain issues which are part of the Church's moral teaching are taken out of the context which gives them their meaning. The biggest problem is when the message we preach then seems identified with those secondary aspects which, important as they are, do not in and of themselves convey the heart of Christ's message. We need to be realistic and not assume that our audience understands the full background to what we are saying, or is capable of relating what we say to the very heart of the Gospel which gives it meaning, beauty and attractiveness" *Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 34.*

Quote 2: "Pastors and the lay faithful who accompany their brothers and sisters in faith or on a journey of openness to God ... need to accompany with mercy and patience the eventual stages of personal growth as these progressively occur ... A small step, in the midst of great human limitations, can be more pleasing to God than a life which appears outwardly in order but moves through the day without confronting great difficulties. Everyone needs to be touched by the comfort and attraction of God's saving love, which is mysteriously at work in each person, above and beyond their faults and failings." *Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 44.*

Quote 3: "Every member of the faithful is called to holiness and mission." *Pope St. John Paul II*

Quote 4: "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." *Luke 5:4*

Small Group Questions

- 1) What was a significant point from the homily for you personally?
- 2) How did Jesus show mercy to the woman caught in adultery? What would you be doing if you were in this scene? Just watching as a bystander? Trying to stone the woman? Trying to rescue her?
- 3) Are you aware of God's mercy in your life? Has that realization made you more merciful to others in your life?
- 4) Have you ever shared the gospel when it was unplanned (through a "divine appointment")?
- 5) Has there been a change in your heart/mind or desire towards sharing your faith this Lent?
- 6) Have you had any opportunities to evangelize others this Lent?
- 7) As a parish and as individuals, how can we continue to grow in the area of evangelization? What steps can we take as we move forward?