

LUKE 19: 11-28

“To everyone who has, more will be given, but from he who has not, even what he has will be taken away”

What is Jesus talking about, how we use our resources, our gifts? Our gospel could be about these things, but the King, in our gospel, didn't tell his servants to increase the ten coins, he told them to engage in trade. Our gospel can be seen as a call that we all have as Christians, as followers of Jesus, “to spread the good news”, our call to evangelize, to engage in the trade that Jesus is in. That's right you have been called to be an evangelist, to bring others to God's love for them. The idea of being an evangelizer calls up images of people yelling from street corners, condemning others, and getting people to think just as we do.

But we say, “I'm the one who needs to be evangelized, I

don't know enough about my Faith". I have to have something to give others and I have all these doubts and anxieties. I'm not a good speaker and I don't want anyone to think that I am self-righteous. Besides I didn't sign up to evangelize anybody. If this is how we think of evangelization there is no wonder that we and others are turn off and tuned out.

It was St. Francis who once said, "Spread the "good news" [The good news of God's love for us] use words only when necessary".

To understand evangelization and to be an evangelist there are some basic things that we are called to; we must know Jesus, we must learn our Catholic Faith, we must know ourselves, and we must be Holy. These basics may frighten us but they shouldn't. None of us should be comfortable with where we are with any of these basics. But we are all

somewhere, and that is good enough. You wouldn't be at a weekday mass if your journey to God wasn't important to you.

Let's talk about our four basics: Do you know Jesus? Yes you do, you know who He is, when He was on earth. You know His story, you know what He did, why He came, you know that He is present to you always, that He died for you, that He loves you. Think now of someone that you were really, really close to who has died, a parent, grand parent, a spouse, a child, a sibling. You still have a relationship with them even though you can't see them. Death is the end of a life here on earth, not the end of a relationship. Don't you have that same relationship with Jesus, even though you can't see Him, you know Him?

Our second basic our Catholic Faith, you may know a lot

about, but there is still so much to learn. What difference has your faith made in your life? What would you be like without your Catholic Faith? We need to get to know why we believe what we believe, and never stop our pursuit of understanding.

The third basic of being an evangelist is to know yourself. This is the basic that we are most uncomfortable with. We rationalize and say we are OK, but we must never forget that we are sinners and that eternity in heaven is dependent only on God's love and mercy, His grace, and nothing else. When we truly realize this we will live our lives doing good things for the right reasons, because we are so loved. To know ourselves we must consistently and daily ask ourselves why we do the things we do.

Our last basic, is a firm commitment to try to be holy. Holiness is a matter of living what we already are. That's right

you are holy, you were made good, in the image and likeness of God. We tend to think that holiness means sinless, and virtuous, but it simply means to be “set apart”, and you have been set apart by God. He loves you individually, personally, and specifically as you are. We live holy by what we say yes to and what we say no to.

Our relationship with God is pretty well determined by where we are with these four basics. But our relationship with God is a journey, a process. We don't have to be perfect to be an evangelist, wherever we are is just fine. If you have committed to being on your journey to God, you have accepted His love for you, then you are evangelizing by simply existing

Always be prepared to give an answer, to everyone who asks you to give the reason, for the hope that you have, with

gentleness, kindness, and respect. Pope Paul VI said, “Man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he listens to teachers it is because they are witnesses”.

By now you should know you are already evangelists whether you want to be or not. The questions we must ask ourselves are: Are we engaged in the trade that Jesus is in? Are we leading others to God’s love or somewhere else?