

### How to Witness (3)

Sermon, February 5, 2023

**Scripture Reading:** John 4:1-15

**Golden Verse:** *“Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ‘Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?’ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.”*

- John 4:28-30

Dear beloved,

Life is enjoyable. We are here to live our lives enjoying everything that surrounds us, what we have, and what we experience day by day. We are here to be happy. We are created to enjoy life. God created us to be happy and to enjoy life and to enjoy His creation. God created us to enjoy every moment, to laugh more.

We have to open our eyes to life: to see it in the vivid colours that God gave us as a precious gift to His children, to enjoy life to the fullest, and to make it count, I am inviting all of you to say YES to your life. This is how we all should enjoy life. But unfortunately, we see more sad and troubled than faces. Jesus Christ came into this world that we may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10b).

Today we will continue to learn how the most effective psycho-therapist, Jesus Christ, is approaching a person, who is isolating herself from others and feels extremely lonely, carrying her own heavy burdens with a heavy heart.

**The first main message today is: Establish eye contact.**

God can bless all of us to see between the lines, to see deeper into a human soul. We don't need extra wisdom to define if a person is happy or sad, enjoying life or struggling. We just have to have strong eye contact with them and we can see their spiritual status. The eye is the window to the soul.

The eyes are the most beautiful and vital body part. Our eyes are not just body parts: our eyes hold many answers and emotions. If you wish to talk to someone without using words, your eyes will work for you and often more effectively. If you can understand someone's emotions through his/her eyes, you will feel that beauty, charm, and adventure that will bless your soul. It's fascinating to have a conversation where there are no words used, but all the emotions are shared.

“The eyes indicate the antiquity of the soul” (Ralph Waldo Emerson). So, yes, the eyes can speak. Our eyes can say more than our mouths and our eyes will never say something fake. Your mouth might be lying, but your eyes will always tell the truth. Eyes without speaking can confess a lot.

I am sure we all had moments when, consciously or subconsciously, we were looking at somebody's face, and we discovered some sadness. She did not look at us, but we felt already sorry for her. Maybe in split seconds, so many thoughts crossed our mind and we said to ourselves: Oh poor soul, this person is so down, so sad, or even ... looks so miserable. We were wondering what bothers her. And if she would suddenly make quick eye contact with us, noticing we were watching her, her face would turn into even sadder. She would wrinkle her forehead, wondering why are we watching her or she would wonder what can we see in her through her eyes.

Sad and troubled people are mostly lonely.

In our scripture reading, we see a woman coming to the well alone. She is avoiding others. Because it was a very hot day, and because of her heavy heart, any kind of joy was dried out from her heart. Unexpectedly, she discovers that she is not alone. Somebody is sitting at the well, from where she wants to get water. He is a stranger, a Jew, part of her enemies. She is neglecting Him. She does her routine, drawing water, then she is ready to walk away. She cannot do all this without noticing that the stranger is watching her.

Before she is leaving, the stranger says to her in a gentle way: Give me a drink. The woman looks at the stranger in wonder. A pair of infinitely kind, gentle, compassionate eyes look at her. There is no contempt in it. She feels that a special kind of acceptance, love, and respect is radiating toward her from the stranger's gaze. Jesus only says a short sentence to her. There was no command in this, just a gentle request. With one sentence, Jesus seeks contact with this person.

**The second main message today is: Establish a common interest or link.**

Jesus simply asked a favour as a way of making contact. By the way, this is an example of Jesus witnessing to "person X" that we talked about last week. Jesus had never met this woman before and, after this episode, He probably never saw her again. But He used this simple request to open the door for the gospel, not only to this woman but also to her entire town. Any common interest can be an entry point that eventually leads to the gospel.

It is not easy to start a great conversation. But if we have the spirit of love and care, then our approach will be successful.

For this kind of approach, we have to pray. We have to ask God to bless us with love, understanding, and willingness to start a conversation with others, even with strangers.

Sadly, in our conversations, we can be judgmental, cynical, and condemn people's behaviour. We have to discover our weaknesses, and we have to fight against our

own negative approach, so we would not cause more wounds. But we should listen and heal because this is our call.

Our intention can be different than Jesus' intention: to understand the person's situation, feelings, and sadness, and to help. We have to extend our loving and embracing hands, no matter where the other person is, no matter what he or she did. We have to tell them that we are here for them and we are here to embrace them and help them out of their situation and to place their feet on solid rock. We have to SAVE lives and we should not push them more down with judgments.

Jesus Christ is here today and He wants to have eye contact with you and start a conversation with you. He is searching for you and for me. He wants to start a loving and uplifting conversation with you to fill your thirsty soul, take away your fears and burdens, and give you heavenly peace, comfort, and joy.

Come and, in this silence, pour out your heart to Him.

Jesus says to you:

- Tell me everything that bothers you, hurts you.
- Tell me everything about your increasing fear and stress.
- My child, at this time I don't want to hear about your good intentions, nor your great effort as you serve, but at this point, I want YOU, your heart, as you are.
- Give me your life and I will renew you.

This is how He is calling you today to look into His eyes, and to start a conversation with Him about your life. Nothing is greater than His love and His renewing grace. The Lord is here and He is calling you.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.*

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AMEN