

## **Take the First Step of Sharing Your Faith Person-to-Person**

Sermon - February 26, 2023

**Scriptures:** Isaiah 42:1-8 and John 4:1-9

**Golden Verse:** *Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."* (John 4:7b)

Dear Beloved,

About ten days ago, I had the great opportunity to have many meals outside on a patio in Cuba, where I enjoyed the sunshine, numerous birds and beautiful flowers. I never had my meals alone. There were always all kinds of different birds around me since I fed them.

One day, there was a beautiful bird, which took the courage to come closer and closer as I was dropping her some small pieces of bread. I was wondering how much she could eat. After a while, she started to make different noises, calling her partner to join her to eat. She did not leave the food but was calling and calling and calling her partner to that feast. She made those noises for a few minutes. I was wondering when she would give up. But this little faithful bird did not give up on calling her partner but the partner did not show up. She took off and, in 15 seconds, they returned together. She showed the other bird where the food was coming from and then they ate together. I was amazed at how those birds took care of each other.

I am sure we are all happy for being able to talk and share our thoughts, our feelings, and our needs with each other. God blessed us, humans, with the ability to communicate using words. God blessed us with the ability to talk not only to share our own needs but to help, guide and lead others.

I am sure, we have all had moments when we met somebody, and that person shared with us his problems, his fears, and his struggles. Maybe he seemed hopeless, disappointed, and lonely. Also, as he was talking to us and we listened, we thought that, if this person had faith in God, it would be easier for him to deal with his problems. We were debating if we should share with him our thoughts, that if he would come to Jesus if he would place his faith in God, he would receive strength and wisdom to deal with his problems. These thoughts were in our heads, and the good intention was in our hearts, but we did not have the courage to verbalize our thoughts and feelings, to guide these struggling people to Christ Jesus. We either were afraid to extend our conversation talking about faith, God, or Jesus, or we did not know how to turn a casual conversation into sharing our faith person-to-person.

Once, a person told me that, in a similar situation, he felt awkward and ashamed to talk about his faith and to offer to the struggling person the opportunity to know more about Jesus.

Afterwards, he recalled what Jesus said: *“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”* Matthew 10:32-33

Later, this person felt very down about not being able to confess his faith in Christ Jesus. He felt terribly ashamed not to guide that person to Jesus, who is able to help us in need.

All Christians, you and I, and all of us, whatever our circumstances in life, have been called to proclaim the Gospel, the good news, that we can find help in Jesus. Your responsibility is to share the Gospel through face-to-face encounters in public: on sidewalks and street corners; at the market and workplaces; at bus stations, and wherever we meet people in need. We have to help people through listening, befriending, proclaiming the Gospel, and making an invitation to faith. These steps are the beginning of a lifelong process of conversion and discipleship for many people.

Evangelization has to be the heart of the mission of our Church. In our conversation, we have to include somehow the Good News, that Christ proclaims salvation. We have to share our joy of knowing God and being known by Him.

We have to feel motivated by the love of God and the desire for the salvation of souls. We have to share with others that faith in Jesus Christ is the way given to us by God and that Christ is our bigger helper in every circumstance.

Please examine your own life and your connection with Christ. As you are talking to people, can they see in you the joy that you know Christ? People are attracted to the joy they see in Christians through other people. Your faith and joy in Christ cannot be hidden, cannot be faked, but has to radiate and has to invite people to Christ.

Be like the bird that was singing and singing and making noise to call her partner to find food. If you know Jesus, help others to know him as well, and to find joy and peace in Him.

Talk about Christ, invite people to Christ, and invest yourself in others in all their brokenness, because our own brokenness has been taken up and healed by Christ. Help others to find joy in their suffering and to put their faith in Jesus.

Buy up the opportunity to turn all your conversations to share your faith. Buy up the opportunity and go, tell it on the mountains, that it is not the same thing to have known Jesus as not to have known Him. Go, and live, and act as a disciple. Amen