

## I. Why did Jesus send out the 12, two by two?

A. We often think about the events after Pentecost, when the apostles found their courage and went out baptizing and converting the Masses..., but this happens long before Christ would die. In fact, it is found quite early in Mark's gospel.

1. Their training was not finished.
2. They had not received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## B. So, what were they doing?

1. It says that he gave them the power to cast out evil spirits.
2. But this isn't the first thing that it says they did. The scripture explains that they went out "to preach."
3. Further, it says that they should shake the dust from their feet, if those they visit do not do something?

*a) What does our Lord tell them would be cause for them shaking the dust from their feet?*

*b) It does not say that they should shake the dust from their feet if the people they visit don't give them anything to eat.*

*c) It does not say that they should shake the dust from their feet if the people they visit don't give them a pomegranate martini.*

*d) It does not say that they should shake the dust from their feet if they don't put anything in the collection...*

*e) Jesus tells them to shake the dust from their feet if the people they visit refuse to hear them.*

4. Now, this is important, because it is after they have preached and been heard that the scripture says that they cured the sick.

## 5. Is this pure vindictiveness?

*a) Is it as though the apostles are pouting and saying: "Fine. You are not listening and so I am not going to cure you. Ahhh!"*

*b) No. Jesus, nor the apostles, are vindictive. This is for sure.*

c) *The problem is that hearing the word is required for healing. Not hearing the word the apostles preached was like refusing the anti-biotic and still wanting the cure.*

## II. We have been talking some about the New Evangelization.

A. You might have read something about it in the bulletin.

B. Perhaps you were here when the Bishop rededicated our convent “the St. Paul Center for the New Evangelization.”

C. Well...the word evangelization...can sometimes be received as a bad word...

1. It is received sometimes not unlike a four letter word.

2. It might give the impression of something forced on another.

a) *And...we don't like having someone force something on us or the experience of having to force something on another.*

b) *When we hear the word “evangelization,” we may think of a pushy tel-evangelist or a insistent person at the door trying to convert us.*

3. It is funny, but Pope John Paul, when he called for the New Evangelization, he mentioned this misconception about evangelization.

4. He wrote: “Nevertheless, also as a result of the changes which have taken place in modern times and the spread of new theological ideas, some people wonder: *Is missionary work (evangelization)... still relevant? Has it not been replaced by inter-religious dialogue? Is not human development an adequate goal of the Church's mission? Does not respect for conscience and for freedom exclude all efforts at conversion? Is it not possible to attain salvation in any religion? Why then should there be missionary activity? (Why evangelization?)*”

5. He knew very well what we were thinking when the word “evangelization” pops into our heads, but he said this:

6. *“Peoples everywhere, open the doors to Christ! His Gospel in no way detracts from man's freedom, from the respect that is owed to every culture and to whatever is good in each religion. By accepting Christ, you open yourselves to the definitive Word of God, to the One in whom God has made himself fully known and has shown us the path to himself.”*

### III. But, let's take a step back, regarding the New Evangelization.

A. what about us? Aren't we already evangelized? Is it kind of patronizing to talk to a chapel full of people attending Mass about evangelization?

1. First and foremost, there are very few of us who cannot stand to deepen our faith, deepen the practice of our faith and, most likely, come to a better understanding of it.

a) *I cannot tell you how often I hear from parents that when their son or daughter is going through sacramental preparation for first communion or confirmation that they themselves learn at least something new if not a great deal.*

2. Clearly, this is what the Pope is talking about when he speaks of the new evangelization. He wrote: "For missionary activity (evangelization) renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. *Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!* It is in commitment to the Church's universal mission that the new evangelization of Christian peoples will find inspiration and support."

B. What does this new evangelization mean?

And, what does it ask of us?

C. Today's gospel reading can help.

1. First, not everyone evangelizes in the same way. Each person evangelizes according to their primary vocation.

a) *You will notice. Does our Lord tell everyone to sell all that they own?*

(1) He did not send out everyone to preach repentance and to cast out evil spirits. No. He sent out the 12.

(2) Not everyone is called to travel to far off lands; not everyone is called to stand up here and preach; not everyone is called to do everything.

(3) This is the beauty of the Church. Each has his own call.

b) *But, what he did require of all of us was that we hear the word and allow it to permeate our lives so much that it heals...in fact, so much so, that it instills God's divine life within us.*

**2. If this divine life takes hold in our hearts, then a change must occur.**

*a) When the scripture speaks of hearing, the scripture is not just talking about sitting here, hearing something and then moving on with our lives just as they were...*

(1) The whole point is that when the Word is heard, it changes us.

(2) It gives form to our thoughts and motivates our actions in the world.

(3) If we find that we come here to Church and leave every Sunday and our lives are no different, then we have not allowed ourselves truly to hear the word.

(4) Objectively, here, every Sunday the word is preached and we even take the word, Jesus Christ, into ourselves in the Holy Eucharist.

(5) If everything we do and even the way we think, each week, after we leave is the same, then we have not allowed the word to take hold.

**3. The apostles when they preached were told not to wear a second tunic.**

*a) You will notice that they were not told not to bring with them a second tunic.*

(1) They were told not to wear a second tunic.

(2) This is an exhortation from our Lord that there be no duplicity in their preaching.

(3) They were told to sell everything they own. This was to remind them that their mission is not of this world. Their priority is the next.

(4) They could not be dedicated to the priorities of this world and, at the same time, make heaven a priority.

**4. The idea is that the word, the gospel, creates in our lives and in our homes a culture which allows the divine life to make a home in our hearts.**

*a) The issue here is what is the dominant culture in our home.*

(1) Is it one that nurtures the whole person, body and soul? Or is it one that nurtures primarily the body with a little soul mixed in as a garnish?

(2) Has Neverland or Hannah Montana Land or Fox Valley Land taken root in a deeper way than Eternal Land?

(3) Do your children know that the number one priority for them, in your home, is getting to heaven?

(4) Maybe they do, if they do great!

(5) Maybe it can be more clear...maybe there is more significant room for improvement...

**5. So, how can a parent bring the New Evangelization into their home?  
Now can you deepen the culture of the gospel in your home?**

***a) St. Paul teaches in the first chapter of Romans that we must not be ashamed of the gospel.***

(1) Make your faith an integral part of your life and the life of your families...first on Sundays and then also throughout the week and throughout the day...

(2) Pray regularly with your children.

(3) Don't be afraid to let your children see you praying in private.

(4) Make sure you are praying not just daily but often throughout the day.

(5) Pray before every meal at home and out.

(6) Take some time at the adoration chapel.

(7) Pray the rosary as a family on occasion.

(8) Make learning the faith a priority for your family.

(9) Don't miss Mass when on vacation.

(10) Read the lives of the saints and the Bible. Read other religious books.

(11) Make the catechism as much a priority as Math.

(12) Teach your children prayers that they are not even required to know...one's that you don't know yet...learn those prayers with them.

(13) Make confession a regular family event, even monthly.

(14) Make religious events at the parish as much a part of your life as school or athletics.

(15) If you see a neighbor who has not been to Church in a while, invite them to come with you or ask them about it. Tell them that Father said that you don't need to put a dollar in the collection. Just come.

*b) These are just some ways that we make our lives, lives permeated by the Word, by Christ.*

*c) This is how we live the New Evangelization in our homes.*

(1) Really, in the end, the question is what kind of culture do you want to form in your home.

**6. In our schools, don't be afraid to hold your schools to the Christian values that you espouse. This is not imposing your beliefs on others. It is you striving to raise your children right.**

**7. In our jobs, act with virtue: honesty and courage and temperance and prudence...**

#### **IV. Conclusion**

**A. Evangelization is not a bad word.**

**B. Some of these things you are already doing.**

**C. Don't be afraid to take them to the next step.**

**D. Remember, the word is the source of the Divine Life dwelling in our hearts. Do not be afraid to acknowledge that Divine Life and carry it to others.**