

## Lesson 9

### Characteristics of an Authentic Evangelist Part 2

#### 1. Faithfulness in the Little Things

St. Josemaria Escriva said: “Rest assured that you will usually find few opportunities for dazzling deeds, on reason being that they seldom occur. On the other hand, you will not lack opportunities, in the small and ordinary things around you, of showing your love for Christ” (Friends of God, 8).

He couldn't have said it better. The ordinary, what is small in our eyes, is a great opportunity to be faithful in our love for the Lord. For example, when we are on a bus, we can offer our seat to someone else; when we're standing in the bank line, we can cede our place to an elderly or disabled person... all these are the “small things of life” which, with love, become great things!

*“The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?” (Lk. 16:10-11).*

#### 2. A Solid Interior Life

Interior life? This simply refers to the intimate union with Christ. A real, natural, personal, and constant union. Union with Christ? Yes, spiritually speaking, being united with Christ means that He is always present in our life. He really is, but we can increase that union through constant dialogue and conversations with Him (prayer), through the theological virtues (faith, hope, and love), and by actively partaking of the Sacraments. In short, by making God a central part of our life, and doing everything in our hands to strengthen this relationship everyday. Careful! Interior life can be easily lost! Yes, when we prefer other things, when we stop going to Mass simply because we are in our comfort zone, when we stop praying. The interior life doesn't guarantee that everything will be alright all the time; indeed, sometimes the opposite happens, and we're given more occasions to grow in that love of God through tribulations and sorrows. The important thing is to walk always hand in hand with God, united with Him.

*“Love the LORD, your God, follow Him in all His ways, keep His commandments, hold fast to Him, and serve Him with your whole heart and your whole self” (Josh. 22:5).*

#### 3. Lots of Joy! (“A sad Saint would be a sorry Saint.”)

Joy is one of those things that is easily transmitted. Sometimes when we're sad, it only takes a smile from someone to cheer us up. Joy goes beyond the moment. St. Francis of Assisi said: “Above all the graces and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit which Christ grants to His friends, is the grace of overcoming oneself, and accepting willingly, out of love for Christ, all suffering, injury, discomfort and contempt,” this is where real joy is. We are not happy when we don't

have any problems or sorrows, but when we're capable of seeing God with us, that carries our cross and encourages us to continue. Joy is, in synthesis, to know that God, our Merciful Father, loves us. Can anyone aspire to something better than this? No, God's love is the greatest thing, that is why we're joyful.

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving; make your requests known to God" (Phil. 4:4-6).*

#### **4. Continual Formation (Read a Lot, Write...)**

School, colleges, institutes, etc. are institutions that help us to learn. The church as Mother and teacher also provides us with this space of formation in the Christian field, which we call catechesis. Every catholic has gone through at least 3 years of catechesis. 3 years! And, what have we learned? Sometimes we don't know how to respond to the questions of our non-Catholic friends. The problem is that we don't thoroughly know our faith. This is why there exists continuous formation. It's not enough to know "something" about our faith, we must go deeper. Knowing the Bible, mainly, the Sacraments, grace, forgiveness, love, etc. To read, write, share the faith, talk about it with others, and create study groups are all good ideas to set ourselves up to always be learning more about Christ and His teachings.

*"Thus says the LORD: Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, nor the strong man glory in his strength, nor the rich man glory in his riches; but rather, let him who glories, glory in this, that in his prudence he knows me, knows that I, the Lord, bring about kindness, justice and uprightness on the earth; for with such am I pleased, says the LORD" (Jer. 9:22-23).*

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