

A very wealthy Father who was looking for a young courageous man to meet his only daughter. The rich man had tens thousands of acres of prime land, thousands of cattle, a large mansion with a huge swimming pool, and a beautiful young daughter. The man invited all the eligible young men to gather for a party at his estate. After the delicious meal, he lined up all the young men at one end of the pool. The father told the men that the pool was filled with snakes and alligators. He then said, "To the first man to swim to the other end of the pool, I will give you a choice of one million dollars, or a thousand acres of choice land, or an opportunity to meet my lovely daughter.

Suddenly, there was a splash in the pool, one man swam like a streak to reach the end of the pool, and when he emerged, the rich father approached and asked, "Do you want the million dollars," No, thank you. Do you want the thousand acres? No thank you. Well than you must want to meet my beautiful daughter. No, thank you replied the young man. Well, son, then just what is it that you want? What I want, sir is to know the name of the man who pushed me in the pool.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread. While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then Jesus said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see, I have."

And as Jesus said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things." The Gospel of the Lord.

After Jesus rises from the tomb, He becomes visible to His followers throughout fifty days. These appearances, allowed His disciples to see Him with their eyes, to hear Him with their ears and to touch Him with their hands. The Lord told them that they are now His witnesses." In other words, they now have personal knowledge and have experience that Jesus was alive. Before the Lord ascends to the Father, He instructs His disciples, "Go out and be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth." These followers with firsthand knowledge the Resurrection were commissioned to spread their faith.

However, it's one thing to have faith in Christ because you saw Him but what about those people that Jesus didn't appear to? Jesus told Thomas, "You believe in me because you saw me, you heard me, you touch me but blessed are those who have not seen me and have believed.

Comment [MF1]: b

Many people came to believe in Christ who had not seen Him and they too became witnesses by their faith. Therefore, each generation are called to spread the Gospel to the next generation by how they live their life.

Some years ago, a friend of mine Tim Smith gave this meditation to begin a Pastoral Council meeting. I invite you to close your eyes to listen to this reflection.

Feel the presence of Christ here amongst us! Feel the Love that You are...and become that love in every way... so all may see you are a witness for Christ's. So, you may lead others to the love of Jesus.

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but God will ask how many people you assisted along the way.

God won't ask the square footage of your house, but God will ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you wear, but God will ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask what your highest salary, but God will ask how you much did you share what you had.

God won't ask about your job title, but God will ask if you use the gift, He gave you.

God won't ask how many friends you had, but God will ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your skin, but God will ask how you treated those who are different than you.

In other words, God will ask you what kind of witness you were in the world.

My friend Tim Smith passed away five years ago, but he was a powerful witness for Christ by the things that he did and the words that he said. Tim would work full time at his job and then come to Church and cook several dinners each month for families who attended our Faith Formation Program. This was just one of many things Tim did to show the world that he was Christ's witness.

My favorite poem is the Gospel according to you: It goes like this: The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are read by more than a few but the one that is most read and commented on is the Gospel according to you. You are writing a Gospel a day by the things that you do and the words that you say. People are reading what you write whether faithless or true, what is the Gospel according to you.

My friends, the Gospel we write with our lives is how we become witness for Christ.

This week let us take some time to reflect on the Gospel we are writing with our lives?

Let us pray: please pray after me: Lord Jesus, thank you for the privilege of being your witness in the world. Give me the strength and love to continue to write a Gospel with my life which is truly Good News. Amen and Amen.

May God bless you and keep you, may God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may God look kindly upon you and give you peace. May Mary our loving mother, hold you in her tender arms. Have a blessed and safe week.