



Essential Evangelization

Home Town Prophets?

Did you ever try to evangelize your own family without success? If so, you are not alone. In the Gospel reading from Luke we heard how Jesus preached in the synagogue in his own home town of Nazareth. He claimed that the fulfillment of Isaiah's messianic prophecy had come true that very day in him. After he sat down the crowd began to murmur and before the end of the day they drove him to the edge of a cliff to throw him off! Hopefully you have not had this problem trying to evangelize those of your own family! Jesus even reiterates in his synagogue "homily" that a prophet is not wanted in his home town. And so it is with us. The trouble is that those we love the most sometimes are too familiar and close. They knew us from our youth with all of our immature faults and imperfections and likely cannot see beyond that impression to accept the change of our new life in Him.

This Sunday however Jesus traveled on to the Lake of Gennesaret preaching the word of God to the crowds along the shore. He saw two boats having trouble fishing, so he got into one and even preached from there - now that's improvising! Before you know it, the boats were teeming with fish, so much so that their nets were breaking. And before the end of this day, Peter, James and John, in their amazement, left everything to follow him.

Has Jesus worked a miracle in your life? Have you then tried unsuccessfully to evangelize your own family? Do not be afraid or discouraged, even the Son of God had trouble there! Maybe it is time to extend your sphere of influence. God has a great plan for your life. Just do it! And watch for a miracle!!!

"When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him."

Luke 5:11

*This is one of a series of articles on
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