

ACKNOWLEDGE HIM  
Is. 45:4-5 “My chosen...acknowledge Me.”

When a person is thirsty, what do you give them? A drink. When they are hungry, what do you do? Feed them. When they are injured, what should you do? Like the Good Samaritan, you bind their wounds. When they are naked, you clothe them. When a person is lost, you find them or give them direction.

SPIRITUALLY — there are people all around us, some of them we know personally, and others that we don't even know who are spiritually injured, hungry, thirsty, naked, and lost. What are you to do?

It's interesting what God says to us, in our Old Testament reading today. Listen to what He said in Isaiah chapter 45, verse 4: **For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel My chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me.** When God calls us “My chosen,” He knows us very well. He knows that we are His own, but we are still sinners. We have committed the sins of omission, which means not doing what we should. And we have committed the sins of commission, which mean doing what we should not do. God has bestowed on us a title of honor. What is that title? CHRISTIAN. Children of God. Called to the cross. Redeemed by the living Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. God has also summoned each of us by name. What has He summoned us to do? To acknowledge Him and acknowledge Him to others. The problem is, as God said, we do not acknowledge Him. This is called the sin of NO MISSION or NO GREAT COMMISSION. What is the Great Commission? It is found in Mt. 28:19-20 **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**

Why are many of us Christians not acknowledging God to others? To many people believe the six myths about sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the unreached, unchurched and uncommitted people. What are those six myths?

**Myth #1) I don't know any unreached, unchurched, uncommitted people!**

Have you ever asked your hairdresser or barber? What about the teller at the bank? How about your teacher, coach, paper boy or girl? What about your boss or co-workers? How about your nephew, niece, brother, sister, mom, dad or children, grandparents?

Someone once asked me, “Pastor, how do you know when a person is churched or not?” I responded in this way. “I ask this question: What is the name of your

church and the name of your minister or priest?" If they are not able to tell you, it is likely that they don't go very often or they don't have a church.

### **Myth #2) I don't have any opportunity to share my faith!**

Where do you shop and stand in the check out line? Where do you get gas? How often are you on the phone? ...on a plane? ...on the bus? ...in a cab? ...in a car?

How often are you waiting in an elevator? ...sitting in the waiting room of a doctor or dentist office?

How about as you are waiting in line at McDonalds? "Order a McManna - with locust and honey on the side." That may get a good discussion started.

### **Myth #3) I don't know what to say?**

It's amazing how many people talk about the White Sox and the Cubs. People talk to complete strangers about the Chicago Bears, Green Bay Packers or the Vikings. How many of you carry around pictures of loved ones in your wallet or purse? How easy is it to share with other people about your loved ones in those pictures? If Jesus is someone you love, why is it so hard to share with other people about Him?

### **Myth #4) There's plenty of time. What's the rush?**

The truth is: A person can die today not knowing Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. God's Word reveals to us all about this urgency. What is this urgency? The Apostle Paul told us, in our second reading today, from 1 Thess 1:10, that **we are waiting for God's Son from heaven**. Jesus is coming soon, and there are a lot of unreached, unchurched and uncommitted people all around us. Paul reminds us in Romans 10:14 **How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?** Indeed, there is a great urgency.

### **Myth #5) It's the pastors, teachers and paid staff's job to share the faith.**

No! Paul said in our second reading in 1 Thess. 1:8 **The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere.** This is proof of the effect of the Gospel — after the Gospel was preached, the people were sharing the Good News on the widest

scale possible — the largest factor was their diligence in communicating their faith to others.

The Lord's message ring out from YOU. YOU does not mean just the pastor, teachers and staff. YOU means that the message of salvation in Christ Jesus rang out from the lay people. That's YOU. The Christian faith is to be shared everyplace you go, where the spiritually hungry, thirsty, and lost are. Like the people of Thessalonica, our **faith in God** needs to **become known everywhere**. This includes Crown Point, Lowell, Hebron, Lake Village, Demonte, Merrillville, Shererville, St. John, Gary, Miller, Chicago, wherever you go.

### **Myth #6) One size fits all in sharing the faith.**

There are numerous ways of acknowledging God to other people. How can we tell people about Jesus? Every Sunday we have object lessons for the children. Look around you. Jesus used a coin, in our Gospel reading today in Mt. 22:21 He said, **"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."** What does it say on our coins? IN GOD WE TRUST. Use a bulletin, portals of prayer, newsletter, a bible, a hymnal. We have a track rack full of tools for sharing with the hurting and the lost.

There are lots of tools that you can use to share the Christian faith? Wear T-shirts with the Gospel message. I have this wrist band... How about carrying a pocket cross or wearing one around your neck or on your lapel or jacket.

Why should we acknowledge God to others? God tells us in Ps. 91:14-16 **"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."**

Who is our salvation? Jesus Christ. What does He say? Mt. 10:32 **"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven."**

The Apostle John affirms this in 1 Jn. 4:15-16, when he said, **If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.**