



Mission or Maintenance?

Mission or maintenance? That's the questions facing the church today. The transfiguration is Christ's declaration of his mission. It is a foreshadowing of eternal life that awaits all believers. His birth was his covert invasion on sin, his death and resurrection his final victory and the transfiguration is a glimpse into the future glory of our triumphant king. His mission was to defeat sin and death and offer eternal life to all who believe in him. Our mission is to proclaim the saving works of Jesus Christ.

Yet studies show that the Church is failing to get that message across. We are failing to reach out and meet people where they are at, we are failing, as Matthew Kelly says, to "speak meaningfully about the real issues of concern in their lives." What is the solution? "To make the connection between the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the stuff of real life." People want to feel welcomed, experience a sense of community, feel like the message of the gospel speaks to their real life issues and that they are directed in a practical way to grow spiritually. That is why the four signs of a dynamic catholic are so important. Through prayer, study, evangelization and generosity everybody can make small practical steps in their spiritual growth.

Our job is to be welcoming, share stories about our spiritual journey, live our faith authentically, help people make a connection between the gospel and their real lives, encourage one another, and above all, pray! Sometimes we look at the mission of the church and we think that it is to big and to overwhelming, but through small, intentional steps, big things can happen.

Our mission is to present Jesus in culturally relevant ways. We need to give people reasons to be disciples. We need to share with them the great plan God has for their lives and the glory that awaits them. We need to be people of faith, hope and joy and we need to encourage them and remind them that, "It's good to be Catholic!"