

WAYPOINT

Week 13 – Evangelization - Points from the talk (7/13/22):

12th Step: “Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”

- **Maturity** → *maturus* = ripe
 - “He must not be a recent convert, or he may be puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.” (1 Timothy 3:6)
 - “We temporarily cease to grow because we feel satisfied that there is no need for all of AA’s Twelve Steps for us. We are doing fine on a few of them, the First Step and that part of the Twelfth Step where we ‘carry the message.’ In AA slang, that blissful state is known as ‘Two Stepping’. And it can go on for years.” (12 Steps/Traditions, 112-113)
 - Samaritan woman at the well.
 - “Examine yourselves to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?” (2 Cor 13:5)

- **Mission** → **Joy, Meaning, Purpose**
 - “Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics.” (Big Book, 89)
 - “whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.” (James 5:20)
 - “To teach in order to lead others to faith is the task of every preacher and of each believer... Lay people also fulfill their prophetic mission by evangelization, ‘that is, the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life.’ For lay people, ‘this evangelization acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world... This witness of life, however, is not the sole element in the apostolate; the true apostle is on the lookout for occasions of announcing Christ by word, either to unbelievers... or to the faithful.” (Catechism, 904-905)

- **Respect**
 - “If he is to find God, the desire must come from within.” (Big Book, 95)
 - “Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence.” (1 Peter 3:15)
 - “The missionary task implies a respectful dialogue with those who do not yet accept the Gospel. Believers can profit from this dialogue by learning to appreciate better ‘those elements of truth and grace which are found among peoples, and which are, as it were, a secret presence of God.’ (Catechism, 856)

- **Managing Expectations**

- *“Do not be discouraged if your prospect does not respond at once.”* (Big Book, 96)
- *“After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him”* (John 6:66)
- *“All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others, mocking said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’”* (Acts 2:12-13)
 - *“Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’ So Paul went out from among them. But some men joined him and believed...”* (Acts 17:32-34)

Week 13 - Discussion Questions:

1. Has anyone attempted to evangelize you in a way that was immature, irritating or obnoxious? How did that make you feel?
2. Have you ever experienced the joy of evangelization? What happened and how did this make you feel? Tell us the story.
3. Are you afraid to proclaim your faith or open your mouth at times about something morally offensive? Why?
4. Have you ever felt burned out from your efforts to evangelize? What was the result? Analyze why it happened and how you can avoid burnout in the future.

Closing Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.