

*“Seen any good movies recently?”*

I get asked that question a lot because people know

I sometimes go to the movies on my day off.

And today, I can answer, *“Yes, I saw a good movie recently!”*

**SCREEN: Yesterday**

And that movie is, “Yesterday”, which I’d describe as, a romantic comedy with a sci-fi twist.

Here’s the plot:

The main character is Jack Malik, a struggling musician about to call it quits when he’s hit by a bus.

He wakes up in the hospital and realizes he’s the only person on Earth who knows who the Beatles were.

In this new, bizarre reality, the greatest music group of all time (and Jack’s favorite band) never existed.

But he knows all their songs and decides to share their music with the world.

Now, to be honest, his motives are not entirely selfless, but he’s discovered his mission in life; to share this gift and his talent with others.

Every true musician, artist, athlete, or great mind knows they have been given a gift.

The ones who make a difference in our world are passionate in sharing their gift.

**SCREEN: The Classics main screen**

Our summer message series is titled, The Classics.

From now through Labor Day, we’ll be hearing some classic bible stories; greatest hits, golden oldies so to speak.

Stories we first heard as kids and have heard many times over the years.

Because they’re so familiar, our tendency when we hear them again can be to tune out, deciding, *“I’ve heard that one before.”*

I want to challenge you to hear them again, as if for the first time.

If you do, you'll hear God calling you to deeper faith this summer.

The followers of Jesus knew they'd been given an amazing gift in their faith.

How would they share it?

Let's dive in.

**SCREEN: blank red background**

Now we all know that Jesus had 12 Apostles.

But he had other followers, called disciples.

One day Jesus brought them all together - 72 of them - and said:

*You've heard my sermons and witnessed my miracles,  
the time has come for you to go out on the road  
and share your faith with others.*

If I were one of the 72, I'd have been terrified!

*Me, go out there and share my faith? No way!*

*I'm just a follower, part of the entourage, I can't take center stage.*

But Jesus knew, they had to do this.

It was the best way for others to know about him.

By sending them out, Jesus was basically saying:

*I've given you a gift, now go and give it away.*

Jesus even gave them the very first word to share with others:

**SCREEN: peace**

*'Into whatever house you enter, first say,*

*'Peace to this household.'*

Peace.

Not: *You're a sinner!*

Not: *God will get you!*

Not: *Do better or else!*

No.

Jesus told his disciples, "*start with peace.*"

Simple, upbeat, joyful.

So, how'd they do?

*"The seventy-two returned rejoicing."*

In other words, it worked!

They went to those who'd never met or heard of Jesus and brought hope and salvation.

All because Jesus said that the faith he gave them was meant to be given away.

This message today is not just about what the disciples of the past did...

it's about what God is calling his disciples to do today.

**SCREEN: blank red background**

You have been given a mission.

Jesus wants you to take the gift of faith and share it with others.

Faith, by its very nature, has to be shared.

If you keep it to yourself, you're missing the most important point of God's gift.

Every day, people in our world wake up without peace, with no hope and no joy.

I meet them and so do you.

Whenever you share your faith, you bring happiness and joy to their lives.

I know it's more comfortable to stay in the background, always being a follower, but Jesus wants you to be like the disciples in today's Gospel; to step out in faith, take center stage, so that others will know who he really is.

Who Jesus really is.

Not all the false images people have about God because of what

some say and how they live.

What does that mean....how do you do it?

Simply be a person of peace.

Live your life in a judgment free zone.

Approach every day and every person and every situation as an opportunity to make God known.

To get practical about this, any time you are loving, kind, or generous, you are sharing the gift of faith.

Any time you are compassionate and forgiving, you make Jesus known.

When you reach out to the lonely, the outcast, those on the margins of society....others hear the Good News.

Others come to know who Jesus is whenever you live like Jesus lived.

You are the best way for Christ to be discovered.

Today, at this Mass, Christ calls and sends you.

And he is sending you out there (point)....and saying:

*Go share your faith!*

Now, every disciple's journey is different.

The places to which God sends you are different from mine and everyone else's.

God has uniquely placed you in the world.

You can touch lives no one else can touch.

But this only happens when you see the great gift God has given you and say 'yes' to your mission.

If you only stay where it's safe, and with what you know, you won't be very successful in sharing your faith.

Every day is a new step in the journey of discipleship.

Every day God brings people into your life and says:

*share my message of peace,*

*tell them how much I love them.*

So let me mention two really practical ways you can live out today's message.

**SCREEN: Lord, where do you want me to serve?**

With summer upon us, and life slowing down a little bit,  
now is a perfect time to reflect upon where God is sending you to serve.

Is the Lord calling you to step into a new ministry?

Some parishioners heard our request for new eucharistic ministers.

We need more folks to sign up.

You can also serve in one of our ministries for kids or students  
which will be starting again in September.

Where is Jesus calling you to serve?

That's the first thing, here's the second.

**SCREEN: Lord, who needs your peace today?**

Each day this week, begin your day with this simple prayer:

*Lord, who needs your peace today?*

And then be open to the people God brings into your life throughout the day.  
It might be a family member or friend, or a co-worker, classmate, or teammate.  
Could be a neighbor, parishioner or a stranger.

It might happen when you're at the pool,  
or where your child is playing sports, maybe at the grocery store or the gym,  
maybe here at church.

Offer a simple, positive message to them.

Not a sermon - no preaching - just a kind, uplifting, positive word  
that can give some peace.

This week, share the peace of Christ with one person.

*Give peace a chance!*

For Jack Malik in the movie "Yesterday",  
a world without the Beatles was unimaginable.

The sad reality today is that there are people in our world and our lives

who do not truly know Jesus.

Every day God sends us out and says:

*Tell people, I want to hold their hand.*

*Let them know, all they need is my love. Amen. +*