

"Renew a firm Spirit!"

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The Christian life is not a tourist trip, with planned places to visit, hotels to stay and enjoy the food, culture, music and people of the place they visit. The Christian life is a journey of no return, there is no return to an old way of living, the past dies to give way to an unexpected present and with the hope of a future promised by God.

Today's readings help us to put our pilgrimage in context, the same ones that invite us to accompany Jesus on the way to the cross. Today we will explore three necessary attitudes to start this journey.

The attitudes that we will learn will be Obey and get out, Wait and let God act and Get out of the comfort zone.

We learn the first attitude of obeying and leaving in the reading we have just heard from the book of Genesis: One day the Lord said to Abram: "Leave your land, your relatives, and your father's house, to go to the land that I will show you. With your descendants I will form a great nation; I am going to bless you and, in addition, you will be a blessing to others".

The interesting thing is that it was an order because God told Abram: leave... to go to the land that I will show you. And this is leaving the known, because being in that place God could not show him more. And Abram just obeyed and walked out.

Many of us are very prone to questioning orders, and we tend to ask before obeying. And what God expects is that if He gives you an order, you just obey it. Because most of the time God will understand that you love him, being obedient.

And the next thing is to act. For many who want to make a change, taking the first step is the hardest. But this Sunday, brother and sister, make God's promise your own.

Because God no longer speaks to Abram, he speaks to you and tells you: With your descendants I will make a great nation, I am going to bless you. You will be a blessing to others. Can you imagine? Well, believe God. If you need to get out of where you are or change your lifestyle and you feel that God tells you; get out of here! Do it. And let God show you what he will start with you and what will continue with your descendants. The second attitude of waiting and letting God act is similar to what my mother says.

The For the eleventh commandment is do not get in the way! If we obey God's order, if we act by leaving a place or a situation that does not allow us to see things in a different way, we must be aware that God will act in the circumstances that arise. God, in the Spirit, will be the provider, helper and protector of this new path that we have started.

The psalmist sings:

My help comes from the Lord
Won't let your foot slip
The Lord is your guardian
The Lord is your shadow at your right hand
The Lord will keep you from all evil
The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in

God wants us to trust, to let him act and to avoid at all costs supplying ourselves or trying to take control and not letting God act in our lives, especially in our new Christian walk.

The third attitude to leave the comfort zone is where you feel comfortable, where everything is familiar to you and is under your control or knowledge. Leaving this area creates fear, uncertainty and creates prejudice against the new. And it's the same thing that happened to Nicodemus. The preaching of our Lord Jesus was so attractive and so deep that he was moved to seek the teacher in hiding. The good thing about Nicodemus is that although he was a teacher, knowledgeable of The Law, he had his mind and

heart open to the Master's teaching. And Jesus throws him a spiritual truth in today's gospel: "I assure you that he who is not born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus seeks to justify, but Jesus puts his cards on the table saying: "Truly I assure you that anyone who is not born of water and the Spirit cannot enter the kingdom of God."

It is necessary to make something die for something new to arise, and it is necessary that it be not a human work but the Holy Spirit. Great challenge for Nicodemus. And now Jesus tells you the same thing. He gets out of your comfort zone and decides to be born again, he lets the Holy Spirit do something new in you. Make the words of King David your own in Psalm 51: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this second Sunday in Lent let us encourage ourselves to:

- Obey and get out of where there is no longer any sense of growth in the Christian life and let God lead us into new territory of personal relationship and blessing.
- That if God commands us to leave, he will sustain us and be with us at all times.
- Not to fear leaving our comfort zone, because to see the new things that God wants to show us we must be born again.

May we continue to grow and change towards a new Easter!