

Our deeds should show that Christ is alive - MabuhayRadio

Written by From the writings of Francis Fernandez
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Our deeds should show that Christ is alive. In the Gospel of today's Mass (Matt 23:1-12) we read of Our Lord's warning his disciples against the Scribes and Pharisees who had set themselves up in Moses' chair and taught the Scriptures to the people, but whose lives were far removed from what they taught: Practise and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach but do not practise. Saint John Chrysostom comments: Is there anything more lamentable than a teacher whose only way of saving his pupils is to tell them not to heed the life of the one speaking to them? (St John Chrysostom, Homilies on St Matthew's Gospel, 72, 1). Our Lord asks everyone to give good example in their daily lives and in a fruitful apostolate. There are many admirable examples around us, but we have to pray that, among Christians, those who lead and govern, people of influence, parents, teachers, priests and everyone who is in any way a good shepherd for others will grow daily in holiness. The world is in need of living examples. Christ is the fullness of unity of life; his words and deeds are profoundly consistent. What He says is perfectly consistent with what He does, which is always something marvellous and complete. We have seen strange things today (Luke 5:26), as people said when He had forgiven the sins of the paralytic man and then cured him. Even the Pharisees exclaimed, disconcerted: What are we to do? For this man performs many signs (John 11:47). However, they rejected the witness of the deeds and so became blameworthy: If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin (John 15:24). On other occasions He invited them to believe through what was obvious to all: Believe me for the sake of the works themselves (John 14:11). Our Lord considered his deeds a means of making his teaching known: These very works which I am doing bear me witness (John 5:36). Christ proclaimed the marvellous truth of revelation in word and deed, both in his hidden life and in his public ministry. We have to show everyone that Christ is still alive by living heroically the events of our daily lives. The apostolic vocation which we all received at Baptism means giving witness in word and deed to the life and teaching of Christ. People said of the early Christians See how they love one another. The pagans were really edified by this behaviour and those who conducted themselves in this way had favour with all the people (Acts 2:47), as the Acts of the Apostles tell us. As a result, the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved (ibid). Those who were converted to the faith made good use of every opportunity to explain the reason for their hope (cf 1 Pet 3:15), and in order to spread their joy to others: Those who were scattered went about preaching the word (Acts 8:4). Many gave the supreme witness of martyrdom to the faith they professed. We too are ready to go to that extreme if Our Lord asks for it. In his apparent madness the martyr becomes a powerful attractive force that leads people to Christ: many conversions are the result of having beheld a martyr's example. Hence the name martyr, meaning witness, signifies having given testimony for Christ. With permission from Scepter UK. Short excerpt from IN CONVERSATION WITH GOD by Francis Fernandez. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please email info@defensoresfidei.com. The DEFENSORES FIDEI FOUNDATION actively spreads Ecclesial Information, Catechetical Instructions and Apologetics in pursuit of making good Catholics better Catholics. Any contribution to help this apostolate is heaven-sent and now TAX-DEDUCTIBLE (in USA). Please visit us at www.defensoresfidei.com. [Joomla SEO powered by JoomSEF](#)