

## HOW TO ENCOUNTER GOD LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Matthew 4:18-22 NRSV

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

I never tire of repeating those words of Benedict XVI which take us to the very heart of the Gospel: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction”.

The Joy of the Gospel p8. Pope Francis

“The Creed is not a collection of propositions; it is not a theory. It is anchored in the event of Baptism — a genuine encounter between God and man.”

Pope Benedict XVI - Islinger Feld, Regensburg Germany - 2 September 2006

“The Christian life is essentially marked by an encounter with Jesus Christ, who calls us to follow him”

Verbum Domini p72. Pope Benedict XVI

“There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him”

Mass, Imposition of the Pallium and Conferral of the Fisherman's Ring  
for the beginning of the Petrine Ministry of the Bishop of Rome  
April 24, 2005

Spirit-filled evangelizers are evangelizers who pray and work. Mystical notions without a solid social and missionary outreach are of no help to evangelization, nor are dissertations or social or pastoral practices which lack a spirituality which can change hearts. These unilateral and incomplete proposals only reach a few groups and prove incapable of radiating beyond them because they curtail the Gospel. What is needed is the ability to cultivate an interior space which can give a Christian meaning to commitment and activity.

The Joy of the Gospel p262. Pope Francis

