J.J.

BE BOLD

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

THIS IS GOING TO BE VERY PERSONAL SERMON

A MISSED OPPORTUNITY STORY : We just came from Montreal. While we were there, my daughter and I decided to go shopping at the Eaton Centre. Afterwards, we went to the food court to grab some food. After getting our orders, we sat down in one of those high tables where you can sit on one of the stools. There were still six stools in that table, three on one side and and three on the other side. In front of us, sitting in the middle was a man, maybe in his late 60s or early 70s. He started having a conversation with us while we ate. He immediately mentioned his story how he went to Thailand (maybe he noticed we were Asian) and then said he met his wife in Hongkong. To make this long story short, he married this woman from Hongkong and both of them moved to L.A. He was a native Montrealer and he was back again after many years of being away. He said his wife stopped talking with him for more than a year even though they live in the same house and that's why he went back after many years. Knowing that he was heartbroken, we introduced himself as Christians and asked if we could pray for him. He immediately said "yes" and we prayed for him and said that he believes in the "power". But the story, doesn't revolve around that. We said goodbye and while we were walking around Montreal, I had this gnawing feeling inside of me on why I didn't even had the courage to share the Gospel. God has arranged someone from L.A. to go to Montreal and we, from Toronto to go to Montreal to meet at this place. There's no such thing as circumstance and yet I missed the opportunity to share the Gospel to this man which was the most important thing.

I could have mentioned to him, *"Mark 8:36 What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul."* Could have… would have… it doesn't matter. I lost that opportunity, maybe because of timidity, fear, cowardice… you name it.

I knew the opportunity came from God but to walk and grab it came from my own flesh.

2 Timothy 1:7 God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but of power, love and of a sound mind.

I have resolved never again to shrink back in sharing the Gospel if given an opening or an opportunity.

Why we should be bold in sharing the Gospel.

1. **It is the Gospel – GOOD NEWS.**

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel

WE ARE SHARING THE GOOD NEWS! WE ARE NOT SHARING BAD NEWS. WHY SHOULD WE BE ASHAMED OF SHARING THE GOOD NEWS?

Tip : Start by saying, "Can I share you some good news?"

2. **It is the Power of God.**

because it is the power of God

It is not our power. We are not the ones who need to convince a person to believe. OUR JOB IS ONLY TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS AND THEN LET GOD'S POWER WORK. OUR JOB IS TO INVITE PEOPLE TO CHURCH TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST AND LET THE HOLY SPIRIT WORK.

3. **It saves people.**

that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

Illustration : If we see a person drowning and we have a lifeline, wouldn't you throw that lifeline to that person and save him. That's what happened to the man, I saw him drowning. I prayed for him but went away and he will still drown and die in his sin without Jesus Christ.

That's why brothers and sisters, let us not be ashamed of the Gospel.

STORY : I love this movie called "We Bought A Zoo". Matt Damon was the main character.

His wife passed away and he moved his two children to the countryside to start a new life and bought a zoo to repair it while coping with grief.

There was this one scene, he brought his kids to the restaurant where he met their mother.

He was walking along the street and said, "saw the most beautiful woman" eating at that restaurant, he stopped and he said, he only has 20 seconds to do this and he entered the restaurant and introduced himself and that's the reason the children were born.

But there is another scene that his son went to father , a teenager coming out of puberty who liked a girl and he was telling his dad this…

Dad : What happened with you and Lily?

Son : I don't know. I guess I didn't listen to something she told me. I like her. It's like you embarrass yourself when you say something. You embarrass yourself if you don't

Then this is how Matt Damon replied.

Dad : Sometimes all you need is 20 seconds of insane courage, just, literally 20 seconds of just embarrassing bravery and I promise you, something great will come of it.

The next time you are given a chance to share the Gospel…remember this… it only takes 20 seconds of insane courage and God will do something great with that.

Remember 20 seconds and remember Romans 1:16

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."

S.G.D.