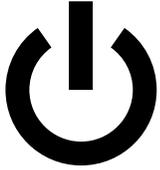


Title: Did a Disciple Really Become a Pope?

Speaker: Randy Smith

Key Verses: Romans 16:1-23; Ephesians 2:8-9

Summary: Catholicism rose when Rome fell and lost its faith in the process.



Power Up: Take a moment to prepare

Randy shares a few early encounters with Catholicism. What have your experiences been with Catholic friends and family?



Replay: Take some time to watch

Note the flow of Randy's talk: **1)** early encounters with Catholicism; **2)** Catholicism's cosmopolitan roots; **3)** the need to franchise for the Roman Empire **4)** a few key beliefs in Catholicism; **5)** helping Catholics find God.



Comment: Take some time to talk

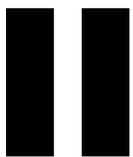
Randy asserts, "You don't understand people unless you know what they read and watch." ***What can you learn about the Catholic Church from Ancient Roman writings, theater, politics, and history?***

Read Romans 16:1-26. ***What is significant about Paul's roll call of names? What tends to happen to new ideas in cosmopolitan areas?***

Randy coins the term "McRome." ***What does it mean? How did McRome help the Empire overcome the challenge of diversity? How did the Catholic church benefit from McRome after Rome fell? How have you accommodated the values and practices of Hollywood?***

What two problematic beliefs in the Catholic church did Randy list?

How did Randy handle the question of whether or not a Catholic person could be saved? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.



Pause: Take a moment to pray

Thank God for the rich history of the Church. Ask Him to protect you from being conformed to the worldly values and practices. Ask to make you stand out for your love for Jesus that expresses itself in love for others.



Take Action: Take a step forward

Conversations about Catholicism and other religious systems should move from ideas to individuals. Seek out a Catholic classmate (or someone from another faith) and ask them about their beliefs, practices, and doubts. Don't try to convert them. Just listen. Unless, of course, they ask about your faith.

Bonus Features | Additional Notes and Quotes from Randy Smith

Power Track Summary: How did Jesus' message to a small group of Jews end up helping to form the "Catholic" Church? Is Roman Catholic teaching faithful to God's Word? Do they preach the Gospel? How did they get so big? Are you "born" Christian in that church?

About the Speaker: Randy Smith is a pastor, teacher, speaker, and regular tour guide leader to Israel and Italy. He founded the Great Commission Bible Institute.

3 Early Observations about Catholics:

1. They love art
2. They love Mary
3. Jesus is on a bloody cross

"When the Gospel came to Rome, the gospel changed the Romans. But the Romans changed the essence of the teachings of Christianity."

A cosmopolitan mix of people have a greater chance of being affected by people around them.

Urban people are more open to new ideas.

2 Major Stages in Roman History

- 509 BC to 44 BC Rome is a Senate-run Roman Republic
- 44 BC to 476 AD Julius Caesar changes Rome to an Empire
 - 312-320 AD Church has begun to gain cultural influence; stronger by 400 AD
- 476 AD Rome falls; Church fills in the gap as a "pseudo-political organization" to fill in

Isaiah 50:7

Biggest problem Rome faced in its Empire: cultural diversity spread over a broad area.

Leaders franchised (McRome) their archaeology, dress, and language throughout the Empire to overcome the challenges of diversity.

You always want to start off with the right foot [in Rome]. Know why? Because the left foot is "sinister."

Christians do great when they go out and help the community. They don't do nearly as well when they become the government. When you become the government, you have all the corruption that comes with the government.

The Catholic church adopted the Roman empires banks, policies, systems, etc.