

**Twofold purpose: One is to help the men get over their prejudice that real men do not go to Church. The other is to encourage them to go to Mass or to a Communion Service as often as they can while they are in jail and regularly when they get out.**

## Pointers for Folder 4

Of course, merely being present at the celebration of the Eucharist or at a Communion Service is but a small step in building a personal relationship with God, but it is a step that a person can take while being incarcerated.

Each person will have his own reasons for not attending Church regularly. Spending too much time trying to convince the man that these reasons are not valid will prevent you from stressing the positive effects of regular worship. A few brief responses to common reasons may be helpful:

A) Some church person has hurt or scandalized them. The usual response is that priests and nuns are human like the rest of us. This is not a very powerful argument. A better one might be, "You're not going to allow that person to control your relationship to God or Jesus, are you? If what they said or did turned you off, they are controlling you here and now."

B) I get nothing out of the Mass. Acknowledge that this may be true. A response might be to give a short explanation of the purpose of the mass, namely that it is not primarily a time for inspiration and entertainment, but a time to give thanks and praise to God. To do this we need to understand what is going on and to enter into the prayers and action. A positive response will have to be tailored to the time you have.

C) Questions from the Bible raised by Protestants. These are too many to be answered here. These are usually pretty standard and the questions have been answered many times in various apologetically books you have available.

D) Real men do not go to Church. There is a strong cultural bias against men attending church. Try to find out how the man actually feels about men going to church. Listening with a "third" ear and watching facial and bodily gestures will help you get a feel as to the depth of this idea in the man's mind. Some answers to this objection are already in the text. Discuss them with the man.

The important thing to do is spend time on the reasons real men DO go to church. Do not wander off into a discussion about what other men say or do. Keep it focused on the man in front of you. As you read the dialogue on page four ask the man to put himself in the tax collector's shoes and think of the objections he may have raised in his own mind when Jesus invited him to follow him. Then review some of the objections the man may have raised and ask how he thinks Jesus would respond to him.