

MAY 11 2026 FATHER ROY LOSHAN D’SOUZA

A young student once entered a new school in a foreign country. Everything felt unfamiliar—the language, the culture, even the way people interacted. On his first day, he sat alone during lunch, feeling lost and uncertain. But a kind teacher noticed him, sat beside him, and gently said, “You are not alone here. I will help you.” That simple assurance gave him courage. Over time, he found friends, learned the language, and grew in confidence—all because someone stood by him when he felt most alone.

In today’s readings from the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of John, we encounter a similar theme: God never leaves us alone, even in unfamiliar or difficult moments. In Acts 16:11–15, we see Paul the Apostle and his companions arriving in Philippi, a new and unknown place. There, they meet Lydia, a woman whose heart the Lord opens to receive the message of the Gospel. Lydia’s openness leads not only to her own conversion but also to the transformation of her household. Her story reminds us that God is always at work, preparing hearts and guiding encounters, even when we step into the unknown.

In the Gospel (John 15:26–16:4a), Jesus speaks about the coming of the Advocate—the Holy Spirit. He tells His disciples that the Spirit will testify to the truth and strengthen them to bear witness. At the same time, Jesus does not hide the reality of challenges. He warns them that they will face opposition and even persecution. Yet, His message is not one of fear but of assurance: the Holy Spirit will be with them, guiding, strengthening, and reminding them of all that He has taught.

For us today, these readings carry a powerful message. Like Paul, we are often called to step into unfamiliar situations—new responsibilities, new relationships, or even moments of uncertainty in our faith.

Like Lydia, we are invited to open our hearts to God's grace and allow His Word to transform us. And like the disciples, we may face difficulties or opposition when we try to live out our faith authentically.

But here is the Good News: we are never alone. The Holy Spirit—the Advocate—is always with us. The Spirit speaks in the quiet moments of prayer, strengthens us in times of struggle, and gives us the courage to stand firm in our beliefs. Sometimes, we may not recognize His presence immediately, just as Lydia may not have expected her life to change that day. Yet, God is constantly working within us and around us.

This also challenges us to become instruments of God's presence for others. Just as the teacher reached out to the lonely student, we are called to notice those who feel left out, discouraged, or lost. A simple act of kindness, a listening ear, or a word of encouragement can become a channel of God's grace in someone's life. We are called not only to receive the Spirit but also to share that Spirit through our actions.

Moreover, Lydia's response teaches us about hospitality and generosity. After her conversion, she invites Paul and his companions into her home. Her faith is not just personal; it becomes active and visible. In the same way, our faith must move beyond words into action—into love, service, and openness to others.

Dear brothers and sisters, the message of today's readings is both comforting and challenging. Comforting, because God never abandons us. Challenging, because we are called to witness to that presence in our daily lives, even when it is not easy.

I want to conclude with a few simple yet powerful life messages for our daily journey of faith:

First, trust that God is always with you, especially in moments of uncertainty and change.

Life often brings unexpected challenges, but we are never alone. God walks with us, guiding us even when we cannot see the way ahead. Trusting Him gives us peace and courage.

Second, be open like Lydia—allow God to touch your heart and transform your life. When we listen with openness and humility, God works within us, shaping us into better persons and leading us toward His purpose.

Third, rely on the Holy Spirit for strength and courage when you face difficulties. In times of fear, confusion, or weakness, the Holy Spirit becomes our comforter and guide, helping us remain strong in faith.

Fourth, be a source of God’s love to others through simple acts of kindness and hospitality. A caring word, a helping hand, or a welcoming heart can make a big difference in someone’s life.

Finally, live your faith actively—not just in words, but through actions that reflect Christ’s love each day. Let your life be a witness to others.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us always. Amen.