

# 'Make Me Like Joe'

Tony Campolo – pastor, author and former spiritual advisor to U.S. President Bill Clinton – told a stirring story about a drunk who was miraculously converted at a Bowery mission in lower Manhattan.

Prior to Joe's conversion, he was viewed as a hopeless, dirty wino. It seemed as though his existence in the ghetto would fade away one night in a drunken stupor. But God had a different plan for Joe. He made a life-changing commitment to Christ and was supernaturally transformed.

Joe became a compassionate and caring person who spent his days helping in the mission. No task was too lowly for Joe. He cleaned up the vomit of alcoholics, scrubbed down the restrooms of careless drunks, assisted men into bed when they were too drunk to find their bunks, and always maintained a smile that communicated his gratitude for being able to help.

One night, when the mission's director was giving an evangelistic appeal, a repentant drunk came to the altar and began to pray.

He prayed, "Oh God, make me like Joe. Please make me like Joe!" He shouted this prayer over and over.

Finally, the director stepped down and said: "I think it would be better if you prayed, 'Make me like Jesus!'"

The man looked up and asked, "Is he like Joe?"

If a person didn't know about Jesus, would he or she want to be like you?

Could that man or woman find the power of your love and caring spirit to be transformational in his or her life?

I believe that many of the people we serve in the centers of Life Care and Century Park make such judgments because of what they have experienced.

The Apostle Paul put it this way:

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ* (1 Corinthians 11:1 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter