

Being Salt & Light

Week 5 – Your Story of Faith (5/11)

The Gospel:

There is one Gospel by which we are saved. That Gospel is the story of Jesus and his death, burial and resurrection. Ultimately, people need to hear and respond to the story of Jesus. They need to learn the answer to the question “What must I do to be saved?”. This story, however, is more than just a collection of facts. It has to be more than just a formula for salvation. Our story of Jesus must not be just a recitation of information, it needs to be how He has impacted us personally. Each of us has had our lives affected dramatically by our relationship with Jesus. Our personal story provides an opportunity for sharing Jesus with modern man.

DISCUSSION: What do you think about the statement: “We are the only Bible that some will ever read, the only Jesus that some will ever meet?”

The Gospel

- ❖ **The Gospel Saves (Romans 1:16)** “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”
- ❖ **The Gospel is the Story of Jesus (1Cor 15:1-5)**
- ❖ **No Other Gospel (Galatians 1:8)** “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!”
- ❖ **One Thing (1Cor 2:2)** “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

Our Story

- ❖ **Paul’s personal story (Acts 22:16)** Paul was told: “You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.”
- ❖ **Paul’s personal story (Acts 26:16)** Paul was told: “Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.”
- ❖ **Witnesses (Acts 1:8)** Jesus told his disciples: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
- ❖ **Witnesses (Acts 5:32)** The early Christians were told: “We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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❖ **Treasures in Jars of Clay** (2Corinthians 4:1-14) We are the “jars of clay”. The message of Jesus is for us to carry.

❖ **All Things To All Men (1Cor 9:20-23)** “To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”

Finding Our Story

Reaching modern man. *When speaking to Jews, Paul used OT scriptures (Acts 17:2), when to Greeks he quoted their poets (Acts 17:28). Much of modern America is convinced by testimony and experience. For some people, we are the only Bible they will read and the way they will meet Jesus. People are inundated by information, many will not listen until they learn that the gospel message is not just a collection of facts They will want to hear and see that it has had a dramatic impact on our lives. It can't just be an exercise in academia or a better “argument”.*

When people see the reality of the impact of Jesus on our lives then they will be open to hearing the gospel message of Jesus and his life, death and resurrection. When they accept Jesus then there will be little argument over “What must I do to be saved”. People who give their lives to Jesus will do what Jesus wants them to do.

We may not feel that we have all the answers to every question that comes up about the Bible or our faith but we can tell absolutely about how our faith has affected us. Some know more Bible facts than others but we all know how Jesus has impacted our lives. When a person is ready to hear the Gospel message or learn how to become a Christian then there will be those who can help teach. 1Cor 3:6 “ 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.”

Discussion Questions:

1. *Has EVERY Christian been through a life changing experience?*
2. *How is sharing our faith different from being “just a salesman for Christ”?*
3. *Why is it important that people see and hear how Jesus has affected our life?*
4. *How does one find their story of faith?*

Matthew 5:16 *“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”*

We are not told to MAKE our light shine, neither should we snuff our light out. When we LET our light shine then God will be glorified.