

"Can I Get A Witness?"

Part 4

Sunday, March 17, 2013

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED

Video Opener : "Can I Get A Witness"

(Text) Romans 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? NIV

Acts 1: 8 *But ye shall receive *power, (dunamis -Miraculous power, a miracle itself) after that the Holy Ghost is come upon (arrive influence) you: and ye shall be *witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Jesus said that we receive POWER to be a witness- this is a spirit filled church.

(Review) Last Sunday I shared how to discover your own witnessing style.

1) Confrontational (Peter) 2) Intellectual (Paul) 3) Testimonial (blind man) 4) Relational (Demon possessed man) 5) Invitational (The Samaritan women) 6) Serving (Like Tabitha)

Intro: When it comes to sharing our faith - inviting people to church I have found that most of us - and the church as a whole have gotten it wrong. Ever been asked or have one say - "**wanna go witnessing**"

4 Errors I have seen we the church have misunderstood about what Jesus meant by being a witness for Him.

First Error 1) What I call "Extreme Witnessing"

(Not unlike extreme Sports) -Only the really wild and crazy attempt this.

This is the door to door approach or you go to a mall and you are armed with two questions. Some Christian colleges teach this course as E.E. - "Evangelism Explosion" Here is how it works

1) You go to a complete strangers home, unannounced, not notice whatsoever- They are going about their "normal" everyday life and they hear the door bell - - or a knock at their door.

When they open it they don't see the fed ex guy or a friend but a stranger who's goal is to ask them two questions and have them pray a prayer with them.

Questions number one- if the door remained open for a few seconds here come the first question.

1) *"If you were to die today where would you spend eternity"?*

If they didn't close the door by now then question number two was launched

2) *"If you were to stand before God right now - why would He allow you into heaven?"*

And if by some miracle of God the door was still open we would ask them if they wanted to pray to know Jesus.

HOPE GOAL: - If we got to pray the prayer with them we felt we were a successful witness.

Error # 2 2) Passive aggressive witnessing

You never talk - unless it's to pass judgment on something or someone

(Just let my light shine) - you don't say a word

"...this little light of mine" I'm going to let it shine...

This looks like a Christian who lives in a bubble.

When someone at work starts to tell a dirty joke you walk away in disgust or they are going out for beers after work on Friday - you make some snide comment about hell and drinking- to send a message that you want nothing to do with them.

HOPE GOAL: that one day one of your co workers will say hey you know that really weird guy who lives in a bubble - Yeah. I want to be just like them...

Error # 3 3) Covert witnessing (Witnessing in disguise)

We represent "Jehovah Sneaky" right...

Use Bible tracks like their grenades- we pull the pin and lay one close to someone and move away to a safe distance and watch.

"oh they picked it up - come on God - God EXPLODE all over them.

HOPE GOAL: They will be convicted so much by what they see or read on that track that fall on their knees right then and there and repent and ask Jesus into their heart.

What do they usually do ?- they throw it away - *"Well I planted a seed"*

Error # 4 4) Lethargy (Laziness) -

We live a good moral life but we simply don't do anything

HOPE GOAL: is if God wants to save em He will find a way to reach them.

How ineffective all of theses are - maybe 1 of 1,000 actually works.

I want to show you today biblically what Jesus meant by being a witness.

St: "We need to understand that Christians are meant to reproduce". WOW!

Dogs beget - dogs - cats beget cats,... Christians - beget Christians

QT: John 15:8 *"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." KJV*

I believe that it doesn't happen simply we misunderstand what being a witness means.

Remember our definition of a witness from previous weeks

Def: A witness - is someone who testifies of what they have personally experienced - what they have first hand seen or heard.

Now has anyone ever been asked to testify in a court of law?

STORY DRUNK DRIVER - Lawyer called me

He didn't ask me something I didn't know or wasn't prepared to share, - he wanted to know what I witnessed first-hand, What I had seen and heard.

I was being asked to authenticate what was real, true and accurate.

Every single one of us Jesus has done something in our lives- Forgiveness, healed our bodies, restored our marriage, amen "Can I get a witness"

Those experiences are now what God wants you to share. You are to authenticate what Jesus Can and will do for them

Peter witnessing to Cornelius -

Now Cornelius - is not a Jew, he's not a Christians -So he is out of Peter's circle or Peters Bubble - Peter would not have anything to do with him.

Cornelius a non Christian is pray in g to God -

You would be surprised how many sinners pray to God all the time. in crises or pain, maybe every night.

Maybe they are hoping that there really is a God and they just need someone to authenticate that He is real and can make a difference in their lives too.

St: The majority of people you witness to in life will not be anything like you.

(Text) Acts 10: 34- 43 (Message) ³⁴⁻³⁶ *Peter fairly exploded with his good news: "It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he's doing it everywhere, among everyone.* ³⁷⁻³⁸ *"You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John (John the Baptist) preached a total life-change.*

*Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this because God was with him. ³⁹⁻⁴³ “And we saw it, **saw it all**, everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem where they killed him, hung him from a cross. But in three days God had him up, alive, and out where he could be seen. Not everyone saw him—he wasn’t put on public display. **Witnesses** had been carefully handpicked by God beforehand—us! We were the ones, there to eat and drink with him after he came back from the dead. He commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn **witness** that he is in fact the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we’re not alone in this. Our witness that He is the means to forgiveness of sins is backed up by the **witness** of all the prophets.” ⁴⁶ No sooner were these words out of Peter’s mouth than the Holy Spirit came on the listeners.*

All Peter did was share his experience and while he was sharing the Holy Spirit moved upon them and radically changed their lives.

D) A witness shares what they have experienced and know personally

Peter only shared what he had first-hand experience of what he had seen and heard and knew to true from his own life.

Remember when Jesus asked - "*who do men say that I the son of man am?*"

Matthew 16: 13- 18 *13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my KJV*

In that moment - when Peter discovered who Jesus truly was - Peter also discovered who he was truly meant to be - his identity was now clear Peter had been forgiven sins...

Peter walked with Jesus for three years - as one of His closet disciples - and yet when things got tough he still denied Him - Peter had failed miserably - After the resurrection Jesus drew him back (Jn 21:15) **Love me?-feed my sheep**

1) Peter had personally experienced **massive forgiveness**, he had failed - yet God still believed in him. Peter could share what a merciful God **That our his God was restorer - that his God was the God of second chances**

Have you had failures in your life?

Things broken, mistakes you have made in your life. -

That the Lord has forgiven you for - Things that He has restored your life, your hope, When you have truly experienced things like that - you want to share it with others.

2) Peter had experienced the **Healing power of Jesus** - when his mother in law was on her death bed Peter saw Jesus raise her up

3) Peter experienced - the miracle working power of **God's provision** - multiplying the loaves and fishes

Peter experienced How Jesus gives - abundantly - overflowing - when he his nets were filled to capacity not once but twice

Peter experienced the supernatural provision of God to pay his taxes - The Lord told him to go fishing and take out a coin to pay for Jesus' taxes and his own.

4) Peter experienced seeing **Jesus Glorified** on the mount of transfiguration

5) Peter experienced what it was like to **walk on water**

Why we won't share our experience? -We fear that we don't know enough

A witness shares what you do know

God wants you to share what you do know.

It's not about how much bible knowledge you have.

Too many people are fearful that they don't have enough knowledge to share their faith. God simply wants you to share what you do know.

St: People may need to be able to trust you before they can trust God.

It's not deep theological knowledge they need its they need someone to

Authentic that this God they serve is real and caring in your life and wants to be in theirs. 'Can you the Lord Asking "Can I get a witness**"**

II) A witness is necessary to confirm to the truth

People who are away from God - are not really aware of the spirit realm they don't necessarily believe in the supernatural

John 1:14- 15 NLT ¹⁴ So the Word became human^[d] and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.^[e] And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. ¹⁵ John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.' ¹⁶ From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.^[f] ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God,^[g] is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

People want to believe - why not - they haven't had a witness!

Jesus came to those who could not believe in a God that they could not see. Jesus came as a man who they could see - God made flesh - a witness to confirm the truth, to authentic that

God is Real, - He loves mankind - He is interested in our everyday needs. Jesus proved that - "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son - that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life. - "Can I get a witness?"

III) A witness must willing and ready to share

Peter was exploded - he was excited and ready share?

Why don't we?

We need to stay close to the Lord we must have new, and fresh things happening in our lives right now.

Don't you think that God wants us to be consumed with Him enough that He is doing something new and fresh in our life everyday!

You don't have to go door to door - but you do have to come out of hiding!

You do have to get out of your bubble.

Jesus needs His life, His death, His love, His forgiveness, His provision to be shared with others -

(CUE MUSIC) Jesus is looking for a witness someone who will take His Word and make it flesh and blood .

Special Song -" People Need the Lord" Rachel

Altar

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