

You Can Witness

October 11, 2015

It is my fervent hope that you discover that witnessing is much simpler than you assume. This week we'll look at snippets of how just a little seed sowing can reap a harvest!

DAY ONE: John and Andrew: John 1:35-42

*John 1:35 The next day **John** was there again with two of his (John's) disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"*

1. John the Baptist realizes Jesus is the Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John simply communicates that fact to two of John's followers.

John 1:37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

2. The two followers become curious about Jesus and follow Jesus. Note that Jesus takes it from there!

John 1:38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

3. Andrew, the younger brother of Simon Peter gets in the witnessing act.

John 1:40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.

*John 1:41 **The first thing** Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). [42] And he brought him to Jesus.*

4. Andrew "brought him (physically) to Jesus. Then, Jesus took it from there.

⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

5. What was Andrew's witness? A sermon? A theological treatise? No. It was a simple sentence made up of five words, "We have found the Messiah." In essence he said, "Come check it out."

6. What strikes you from today's two examples? Can you see yourself saying a sentence?

DAY TWO: The Man Born Blind: John 9

1. Jesus heals a man who was born blind by washing his eyes in the Pool of Siloam. Now the fun begins. His neighbors are so dumb-founded that they think it must be someone else, a look-alike. "No, it only looks like him" Now, how did this man begin to give his first witness?

John 9:9 ... "I am the man."

2. A conversation begins. *"How then were your eyes opened?"*

John 9:11 He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

3. The man simply said what Jesus had done for him. Simple. No frills.

4. The people ask the man where Jesus is.

5. Do you ever worry that a non-Christian will ask you a question about Jesus you don't know? How should you handle that? Handle it the way this man born blind handled it! ...

... "I don't know."

6. Jewish authorities tried to badger him into slandering Jesus Christ. They threw some religious gobble-de-gook at him. What was his response? A simple one sentence testimony!

John 9:25 "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

7. A testimony is a simple statement of any of the following!

- What you know about Jesus,
- What Jesus has done for you,
- What your life used to be like,
- What Jesus is doing in your life now.

8. How would you answer the bullet points in question #7?

DAY THREE: Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10

1. Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector. His idol was money and what money could buy. He was unscrupulous with money, cheating a lot of people out of it.

2. But Zacchaeus knew something was missing; something was wrong. He heard Jesus Christ was coming to town and he made a point to see him.

3. Jesus was way ahead of Zacchaeus. Lunch was arranged at Zacchaeus' home.

4. Something happened at that lunch. Zacchaeus repented of his sin, as demonstrated by his willingness to face the music, and undo the damage he had done.

Luke 19:8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

5. What strikes you about his testimony?

Luke 19:9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

6. What do you suppose the core of his testimony? Here's my guess...

"I wrapped myself around money as if that was the most important thing in life. The grip of money was so tight that it squeezed the life out of everything important. My relationships took a hit, as well as my integrity. I can't believe the man I turned into. I couldn't even look myself in the mirror. But Jesus set me free from the power of greed. He showed me how to really care about people, especially people without money!"

7. How is your testimony similar to Zacchaeus'?

DAY FOUR: The woman caught in adultery John 8:1-11

1. The religious leaders find a couple engaged in adultery. Instead of bringing both to Jesus, they only bring the woman.

2. She is publicly humiliated and shamed. Searing eyes of condemnation seem like laser beams.

3. The leaders put Jesus in a difficult position. He avoids their trap but turning the tables on them. He OKs anyone to begin throwing stones at her if they are not guilty of adultery. One by one, the men leave the scene.

4. Finally, just Jesus and the woman remain.

John 8:10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

¹¹ "No one, sir," she said....

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

5. Imagine what her testimony might have sounded like! Here are my thoughts...

"I was at the lowest point in my life. I didn't care about anything anymore. I just had to feel good about something. Then, I did the stupidest thing ever. I slept with a man who was not my husband, and got caught red-handed. I was mortified, filled with shame. I was publicly humiliated. My name was ruined. My reputation was shattered. Then I met Jesus Christ. He didn't condemn me. He forgave me, and showed me my true value for the first time. When I thought I didn't matter to anyone I discovered that I mattered most to God!"

6. What strikes you about this testimony?

7. Are there any similarities to your testimony?

8. I wrote a sample testimony for this woman, but any one of those sentences could be used by itself.

9. When you think about sharing your testimony, just start with a single sentence!

DAY 5: Getting started! Acts 1:8

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

1. We have looked at very short and simple testimonies, as seen in four stories.

2. Below are some examples, some from stories we looked at this week, and some from people I know.

"I was lost; now I'm found."

"I was blind; now I see."

"I was so critical; I'm learning mercy."

"I was so easily depressed; now I'm hopeful."

"I was self-destructive; now I'm on a freer path."

"I bowled over people; I'm learning how to love people."

"I was growing emptier; then I found the key to inner joy/ peace." (SG)

"Fear was so dominant in my life; I'm gaining confidence by being confident in God."

"I was guilty; now I'm liberated."

3. Jot down a few sentences that reflect your testimony. You can talk about your life before Christ, how you became a Christian, and your life since coming to Christ.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

4. When you are trying to share your testimony, rarely does it all come out at once. It usually starts very simply, like eating potato chips. You don't eat the whole bag at once. You eat one chip at a time.

5. Ask God to give you opportunities to share some simple sentences this week!