

The Cornerstone Vision, pt. 5 – Sharing Your Testimony

Mark 16:15-18 - 15 And [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Preach, Teach, and Proclaim the Good News

- Matthew 4:23 – Jesus is in Galilee “teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom”
- Matthew 9:35 - And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.
- Matthew 11:1 – Jesus went to “teach and preach in their cities.”
- Luke 20:1 - ... Jesus was “teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel”
- Acts 4:2 – Peter and John were “teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.”
- Acts 5:42 - And every day, in the temple and from house to house, [the early church] did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.
- Acts 15:35 - Paul and Barnabas are in Antioch, “teaching and preaching the word of the Lord”
- Acts 28:31 – Under house arrest in Rome, Paul was “proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.”
- Colossians 1:28 - Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom...
- Defined
 - “preach” = *euaggelizó* = to evangelize... to Gospel-ize... to announce good news
 - “teach” = *didaskó* = to teach, to instruct, to impart knowledge (lit. “to cause to learn”)
 - “proclaim” = *kéruśśó* = to proclaim some information as a herald... Always carries a suggestion of formality, gravity, and an authority which must be listened to and obeyed
- 2 Timothy 4:2 - preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

Sharing Your Testimony

- Acts 4:13-20 - 13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. 15 But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, 16 saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” 18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”
- It’s One of the Most Common Evangelism Forms in the Bible
 - The Apostle John said he proclaimed “that which we have seen and heard” (1 John 1:3)
 - Ananias told the Apostle Paul that he was called to be “a witness for [God] to everyone of what you have seen and heard” (Acts 22:15)
 - The longest of Paul’s sermons recorded in the NT are simply his story of how he went from murderous Pharisee to disciple of Jesus.
 - The Apostle Peter said that he and those with him were, “witnesses of all that [Jesus] did” (Acts 10:39).

- John the Baptist said that Jesus Himself was bearing “witness to what he has seen and heard” (John 3:32)
- Acts 1:8 - ... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
 - “witness” = martus = an eye-witness... someone who had seen or heard something and could tell about it.
- The Three Parts of Your Personal Testimony
 - 1. What were you like before you knew God?
 - 2. How did you hear the gospel and get saved?
 - 3. What are you like now? What’s different? How have you changed?
- 8 Reasons Sharing Your Testimony is Incredibly Powerful
 - 1. It’s one of the main methods used in the Bible
 - 2. Your story is the truth, and no one can argue with it
 - 3. You don’t have to memorize facts and Bible verses
 - 4. You don’t have to be a deep theologian
 - 5. Everyone has a testimony to share
 - 6. You don’t need any materials (tracts, Bibles, megaphone... Gospel Blimp)
 - 7. People remember stories better than facts (even Jesus told parables to illustrate deep truths)
 - 8. Your story will resonate with people (even if their story isn’t the same)
- A Few Tips on Sharing Your Personal Testimony
 - Be able to share it fast – people don’t have all day
 - Be able to share in 30 seconds, 2 minutes, 5 minutes, or 10 minutes
 - Don’t just be vague and general about your sin, but as specific as you’re comfortable with
 - But don’t focus on how bad you were and just glorify your sin
 - Have a tract or a written version of it – you can leave it places people might read it
- Revelation 12:11 - And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.