

TESTIFYING ABOUT CHRIST

Study 2

Before Jesus ascended into heaven he said to his disciples:

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” **Mark 16:15-16**

He also said:

“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.” **Acts 1:8**

Jesus sent us to preach the good news and to be His witnesses.

A **witness**: is a person who is able to give account of an event because they have been present at that time or they have knowledge of what occurred.

A witness is expected to be present during court to recall a certain event. The Christian witness is called to testify, to tell others what they know about Jesus and what it means to have faith and personal trust in Him.

Our motivation for talking to people should be our love for the lost souls. We need to reveal the wondrous message and meaning of the death on the cross and the resurrection of the Son of God. We must speak of God’s love in Jesus Christ (**John 3:16**), the act of love for all sinners (**Romans 5:8**) and that salvation is through grace – which we don’t deserve (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). It is not possible to speak about this without being moved at the thought of this great truth revealed throughout history: God made himself man and humbled himself as he took on the cross. He was resurrected on the third day as a sign when God lifted him from the dead to give salvation to all those who believe (**John 3:16**). This is why our attitudes need to be of deep reverence and love when we speak of this.

If we have fears, shame, pride or any other negative feelings in our hearts, we must remember that Christ suffered the reproach, condemnation and shame that we so deserved. Therefore, our negative feelings are nothing in comparison to Christ’s sufferings.

Who are the only ones who should publically talk of salvation? (**Psalms 107:2**) *“Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story — those he redeemed from the hand of the foe”*

The bible relates various examples of people who had a personal encounter with Jesus and as a consequence they testified of His power. Let us take a look at a few examples:

John 1:40-42: What was the first thing Andrew did when he found Jesus?

Mark 5:19: After Jesus liberated a demon possessed man, where did Jesus tell him to go?

What did Jesus tell him to do?

Acts 4:20 : How did Peter and John teach and speak in the name of Jesus? (Highlight the correct answer)

- They didn't speak if they were not asked to.
- They couldn't stop talking about what they heard and saw.
- They found it hard to talk about such a personal matter.
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John 9:25 : The bible narrates a story of a blind man whom Jesus healed. He had very little theological preparation, but he was really able to give a simple and effective testimony. Who was he?

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 : What was the main theme of Paul's testimony?

Acts 16:31 : what did Paul and Silas tell the prison guard of Phillipi when he asked them what he has to do to be saved?

Jesus' example:

John 4: 7-42 gives us the example of Jesus showing how we should share our faith. This passage shows what happened when Jesus spoke to a Samaritan woman whilst she was alone looking for water in the well. Here the Lord gives us a major lesson on how we should present the gospel to the lost souls.

1st – He began with the natural: *"Will you give me a drink?"*

2nd – Then he moved to the spiritual: *"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water"*

3rd – Later he showed her *her* sins using the 10 commandments: *"Go, call your husband and come back"*

4th – Then he revealed himself to her: *"I, the one speaking to you – I am he."*

As a result *"many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world."*

(John 4:39 – 42)

Witness with your life.

The lost need to see Jesus in us so they can also see that God can also transform people, since we are sons and daughters of God, living in a bad and perverse generation.

“so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky”

(Phillipians 2:15)

- What sort of life should we live?

- What could be the result of that?

Living as a Christian in Christ, you are writing a gospel, a chapter each day, through the acts you do and the words you say. People are reading whatever you write, be it twisted or true.

Colossians 4:5-6 *“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”*

Why is it important that we present Jesus Christ to the people that are not saved?

- **John 14:6** _____
- **Acts 4:12** _____

In presenting Christ, what other themes are essential to our message? (Look at the following passages and briefly explain)

- **Ephesians 2:8-9**

- **Romans 3:23**

- **Romans 6:23**

- **John 3:16**

- **Hebrews 11:6**
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- **John 1:12**
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In order to be prepared to talk about Christ in whatever situations arise, it is important to learn all the essentials of the gospel. Plan and practice how to explain everything about Christ in a clear and interesting way. Pray to the Lord and look for opportunities to develop this ministry.

What is God's promise if we use his word to testify under his direction?

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"

-Hebrews 4:12

"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

-Isaiah 55:11

Conclusion:

1 Peter 3:15: *"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect"*

At Home

Using the following plan, prepare your own personal testimony at the end of this study which will help you testify about Christ to others:

1. **Before I knew Jesus, I lived and thought this way.** In this part of your testimony, the most important thing is to communicate your spiritual background. What did you thought about God, religion, the bible etc? You could mention other things that characterised your life such as, for example, solitude, depression etc. and how that affected your life.
2. **How I accepted Jesus.** Here you should explain the plan of salvation and how you became a Christian. It is important to emphasise how you previously had an incorrect concept of what it means to be a Christian. You could use other text that have helped you and possibly write "these texts helped me come closer to Jesus because...."

3. After I had an encounter with Jesus a couple of changes began to take place. The most important part here is to express how your views on God, religion and the bible changed. As a consequence of this you can then write how this has changed other aspects of your life; (this is your ministry, family life, character, personality, your capacity to love God and others, your new attitude towards authority etc.)

Remember:

Our job is to present the gospel faithfully. The Holy Spirit is to convince and convict the world of sin (**John 16:8**).