

Jesus: He's a Big Deal!

Takin' it to the Streets, Week 2 08-23-15

Welcome to week 2 of our series "Takin' it to the Streets". We are talking about how to share Jesus every day. [joke] Last week we learned that God has Chosen Us (from our life of sin) and Sent Us (to tell the story to others). So we have every right to speak about our faith to whoever we meet. This is the starting point for telling others about Jesus.

Today I want to consider another motivation for sharing our faith stories about Jesus. It comes from the book of Acts. The background is this:

- Peter and John 2 of Jesus' Apostles, heal a lame man and it causes a stir!
- They tell people about Jesus and how to believe...and then are put in jail
- The next day they go before the religious leaders to tell what there were doing. We pick up the story in Acts 4.

"The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem...They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

-Acts 4:7-20

This chapter is filled with lots of info we could discuss. I want to focus on the *conviction* and the *topic* of what was going on in the story. Witnessing for Jesus is about:

- What we have seen and what we have heard about Jesus

The Apostles were motivated to share their stories

Q: What motivates us to share our stories, our beliefs, our joys?

We all have something to talk about!

- Young parents talk about their kids!
- Grandparents talk about their grandkids!
- Hunters talk about _____ hunting
- Nascar fans about their fav driver
- Sports fans about their fav team or player
- **So shouldn't we talk about Jesus, too?**

Why were the Disciples so effective?

- They focused on **Jesus**, not religion (fringe areas..)
- They were **convinced** He was the only way to God
- They were **sold out** on this conviction: willing to go, willing to be ridiculed, willing to be rejected, even jailed for Jesus

To share Jesus everyday I must have:

1. A personal conviction about salvation

“there is no other name!”

- If Jesus is not the ‘only way’, then we will remain silent
- If there are many ways to know God, then “my” story about Jesus isn’t that important...**so we don't share**
- Our personal conviction must answer this question: How can a person find God?

2. Trust in God (when the opportunities come to share our story)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” -Acts 1:8

- Faith is believing what Jesus has said is true and then we act on it (prayer, expecting, witnessing, etc)
- What did Jesus promise? “we would have power to speak about Him”
-Fear keeps us from knowing this truth!

-We won't know this power without taking the risk to share about Jesus, to speak about him

- Some are looking for power to perform magic / miracles. But the real power of the Holy Spirit

is to tell the story that forgiveness of sins is found in Jesus!

- All throughout the NT this power, God in their lives, guided them to talk about Jesus. And it's the same power living in you and me. Remember, it's about Jesus, not us!

So to share Jesus every day I must have a conviction about salvation in Jesus, I must trust in God to empower my story and I must

3. Develop my relationship with Jesus ("they had been with Jesus")

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." -Acts 4:13

- Why did they have something to say in the 1st place? *They had been with Jesus.*
- We will never have something worthwhile to talk about with our own relationship with him
- Husbands, you can't rely on your wife being real close to Jesus
- Students, you can find power simply in knowing mom or dad believe...it has to be your own

When we are close to God, we will have an overflow, and a story to tell.

Pray