

Title: Story Telling Telling Stories

Passage: 1 Pet 3:14-17

Date: 12/6/2022

Speaker: Jason Hoet

Series: Story Telling Telling Stories

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Over coming weeks, we will be focussing on story telling telling stories. **Learning how to share with others the compelling story of life with Jesus.**

When it comes to sharing our faith, a common quote attributed to St Francis of Assisi is:

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- 'preach the gospel and if necessary use words'

But are actions enough? [slide]

Samuel Shoemaker: " I cannot by being good, tell of Jesus' atoning death and resurrection, nor of my faith in his divinity. The emphasis is too much on me and too little on him"

Can't have one without the other - Living AND Speaking [slide]

- 1 Peter 2:12 "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us"
- 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"

Sharing our faith in Jesus (evangelism) is both living and speaking

- Live compelling lives – "live such good lives" – a life which begs the question
- Share the compelling story "always be prepared to give an answer..."

Always be prepared...

When sharing their faith outside the church people often feel inadequate, unprepared.

How do you feel in sharing your faith with others? What might you fear? Where might you stumble?

Help you sharing your faith by helping you tell telling stories...

[why stories]

- Sam Chan – polluted water example, evangelism in a sceptical world"

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"Stories are the only containers big enough to carry the truth, because stories contain not just the facts but also the feelings and nuances of truth"

Rick Richardson, Wheaton College

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"Tell me the facts and I'll learn. Tell me the truth and I'll believe. But tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever." Ed Sabol

Gospel sharing - Parable of Rich fool.

Luke 12:16-21

16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21 "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

3 Sides to every story [slide]

The good news of life with Jesus is told in the intersection of 3 stories.

- My Story - People get a sense of the lived reality of the Gospel.
- The Story - Come to the centre of what Jesus is about: Saviour and Lord
- Your Story: Helps people know that they can relate to the story. They already have some inkling of God's great news.

[Funeral of twin girl - Mark 10:13-16]

13 People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." 16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

“always be prepared” [slide]

How can you always be prepared to give an answer...?

- Offer opportunities to learn to share with others the compelling story of life with Jesus?
- Over coming weeks seek at least one faith conversation with someone who is not a follower of Jesus. Part of a growth group, share your experience with your group.

GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

- What found valuable from sermon?
- Which of the 3 side of the Gospel story are you most comfortable with? Which is your most challenging?
- What is the next step for you in sharing your faith with others?

Opportunities

- Over coming weeks seek at least one faith conversation with someone who is not a follower of Jesus. Share your experience with your group.
- Write down names of three people you will pray for to know life with Jesus

Response/Prayer/Care cards