

SERMON NOTES - Testimony 3 - Testify to your Community

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

Intro: Psalm 107:2, 42-43 - Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy

42 The righteous see it and rejoice, And all iniquity stops its mouth. 43 Whoever is wise will observe these things, And they will understand the lovingkindness of the LORD."

This week: - One woman's influence, Community, questions, the power of an invitation

Her story: John 4:5-26

Her testimony: John 4:28-30 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men (people), 29 "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" 30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

She was:

- Bold - she bravely told them
- Humble, vulnerable and honest - not proud or pretentious or a great preacher
- Asking questions - not preaching certainty
- Inviting - "come and see"
- Persuasive - they came out in response

The effects:

- **Community:** She gained a community AND invited them to a community/communion with Him
- **Conversion:** John 4:39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."
- **Communion - His presence:** John 4:40-42 "40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of His own word. 42 Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.""
- **Collaboration and Commission**
It wasn't all one person, one event, one time - there is a cumulative and teamwork effect in evangelism and we should not be disappointed if others reap what we sow and vice versa

1Co 3:6 - "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."

Jhn 4:35-38 - "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! 36 "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 "For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not laboured; others have laboured, and you have entered into their labours."

Act 8:5-8, 12, 14-17 - "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city. ... vs 12 - 17 - They were baptised and filled with the Spirit when Peter and John came from Jerusalem.

Mat 9:37-38 - "Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. 38 "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest."" (Also Lk 10:2)

Jesus' method of personal evangelism

Jesus was always led by the Spirit and was always following a Spirit inspired agenda in each interaction - listening, but not letting them set the agenda. His agenda was salvation - the "kingdom of heaven" coming into their lives in healing, forgiveness, repentance, wholeness. He saw / knew their real need before. His motive was love. What's your goal? Your method? Your motive?

	Jn 4 woman at well	Jn 3 Nicodemus	Mat 19 Rich Young Ruler	Lk 19 Zaccheus	Jn 5 Sick man at sheepgate pool	Jn 9 Blind man
1. Establish a connection	"Can I have something to drink?"	Nicodemus approached Him	He approached Jesus	"I'm coming to your house for tea"	"Do you want to be made well?"	Jesus heals him first, although it was a strange method and the man had to go and wash as a part of it. Jesus finds him again later
2. Introduce / find a spiritual need / bring their spiritual need into the conversation	Living water with some teaching	Born again to enter God's kingdom	What or who is "good"?		Jesus heals him.	
3. A word of knowledge or wisdom Briefly answering their questions and objections. Imparting some teaching & bringing the conversation back to their need for a heart decision and a saviour.	You've had 5 husbands etc Worship in spirit and truth	Water, spirit, flesh, the wind - explanations of these concepts around spiritual new birth	Questions about the law & commandments, true goodness and real generosity	We don't know what they spoke about in his house, but he repented, and Jesus said that "salvation had come" to his house. This gives us some clues.	Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."	Jesus explains to him the blindness of the pharisees.
4. Introduce Messiah	I who speak to you am He	The Son of man, the serpent in wilderness, God's only son - Jn 3:16	The man walked away	His repentance showed that salvation had come to his house.	The man told the Jews that it was Jesus who healed him.	"Do you believe in the Son of God?" "Lord, I believe!" He worshipped Him.
5. Jesus' plan / main theme all along in this interaction	Living water	Born again of the Spirit	Goodness - Grace vs Law	Salvation/Jesus coming to his house - relationship & repentance	Do you WANT to be well? Repentance	"That the "works of God should be revealed in him" Jn 9 vs 3

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.