

SERMON NOTES - My Testimony - 8 - Testify with your actions

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

Intro:

How you live and behave - your CONDUCT - is a vital part of your testimony - it is important and powerful.

1Pe 3:15-16 NKJV - "15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed."

3 things that happen when we do good works as well as speak...

- We **Adorn** the doctrine of God (Greek = "*kosmeō*" (*cosmetics but also clothing, hair etc and buildings*)) - To make something more beautiful. Add colour, emphasis, shape. Emphasise the best elements and highlight them making them more noticeable and noteworthy. Make it attractive and interesting and produce good feelings in the beholder. Workers with their bosses, and with any authorities. Willingness, submission, humility, obedience, hard work, good attitude. How much time is taken in putting on make-up? Tit 2:2-10 NKJV - "9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."
- We **Speak to their conscience** and illustrate God and His work in our lives even if they don't acknowledge it now - 1Pe 2:11-12 NKJV - "11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honourable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."
- We Acts as **salt & light**. What do salt & light do? Matthew 5:13 (NKJV) "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."

SALT:

- Creates taste
- Stops Rot
- Creates thirst
- It must be different - a different taste

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

15 "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

LIGHT:

- Shines, attracts, illuminates, Makes clear, dispels darkness, brings life and growth.
- Words and primarily behaviour - Good works

See also 1Ti 5:25 NKJV - "25 Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden."

What are the good works?

Psalms 15:1-5 (NKJV) 1 A Psalm of David. LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? 2 He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; 3 He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbour, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; 4 In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honours those who fear the LORD; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; 5 He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

Summary of the series:

Command to give testimony and a sign of salvation - Ps 107:2 & Rom 10:9, 10

How to do it -

Effects that your testimony has -

1. Phil 1:6 - makes us aware of and able to enjoy all the good things we have in Christ AND makes ur faith sharing effective
2. Rev 12:11 / Ps 107:42 - a weapon that overcomes enemy
3. Ps 107:42-43 - affects those around who hear and see
4. Illustrates & educates / shows what God can do
5. Raises faith in people for Him to do it again ("Testimony" root word = "do it again") (Road to Emmaus pair and upper room)
6. Involves praise and thanks to God so it brings Him into the situation and us into His presence.

Psa 107:2, 42-43 - "2 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."

Rom 10:9-10 - "9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Phm 1:6 NKJV - "6 that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus." (ESV = "... for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.")

Rev 12:11 - "11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

Rev 19:10 - "...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Luk 24:35-36 - "35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread. 36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you.""

Luk 9:5 — "5 "And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them.""

1Jo 1:8-10 NKJV - "8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."

Rom 1:21-32 how people fall from knowing God into doing evil, and having their minds darkened. How we must not "approve" of their evil actions.

Lk 9:1-6, Lk 10:1-16 - instructions on being sent out as "evangelists"

Luk 9:5 NKJV - "5 "And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them.""

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.