

Witness - Sermon Notes & Cell Material

Welcome: When dear you hear some really good news and can you share what it was? Have you ever been preached at by a street evangelist? Was the experience a positive or negative one? Did it bring you closer to God or was it counter-productive for you?

Word:

Read Acts 1:4-8

"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 1:8-9)

Heaven only knows the impact our witness will have. We all know how the layman Edward Kimball gathered the nerve to witness and win the soul of a young shoe salesman named D.L. Moody to Christ. D.L. Moody went on to become one of the greatest evangelists in his world. But, do you know THE REST OF THE STORY? D.L. Moody came to England and worked a profound change in the ministry of F.B. Meyer. F.B. Meyer, with his new evangelistic fervor, influenced J. Wilbur Chapman. Chapman helped in the ministry of converted baseball player Billy Sunday, who had a profound impact upon Mordacai Ham.

Mordacai Ham, knew he had a calling from God. God had continually impressed upon him that his ministry would have an impact on the world. As he approached the end of his career, he thought that promise had been unfulfilled. He considering retiring, but felt the call to go on one last revival circuit. While holding a revival in North Carolina, Mordacai Ham led BILLY GRAHAM to Christ.

And the man who started it all was a layman, Edward Kimball, who took seriously Christ's commission to be a witness in his world.

Look through the following notes and Scripture references.

1. What is a witness?

- a. A bearer of truth
- b. A forth-teller of real experience (Not someone else's, but yours!)
- c. Witness (Gk = martyr)!
- d. Not witness through words only **Is. 29:13a**

2. What are we witnessing about?

- a. Sharing our Christian journey to the glory of God
 - The faithfulness of the Father

- The forgiveness of Jesus
- The leading of the Holy Spirit
- b. Do we have a story?
- c. Is it up-to-date?
- 3. **Why do we witness?**
 - a. Love for the lost? **Matt. 18:12-14**
 - b. A command! **Matt. 28:19-20**
 - c. Act of mercy **Lk. 10:29-37**
- 4. **How do we witness?**
 - a. Family - **1 Peter 3:1-2**
 - b. Work colleagues **Col. 3:22-24**
 - c. Meeting people where they are **Acts 17:22ff MBS Fair!**
 - d. Being people of integrity - **1 Thes. 4:11-12**
 - e. Reasoned defense of the faith - **1 Peter 3:15-16**
 - f. With wisdom - **Col. 4:5-6**
- 5. **We need power to witness?** **Acts 1:8**
 - a. Effectiveness
 - b. Bearing eternal fruit
 - c. Soul-winning
 - d. Sowing of good seed

- Mark 10:229ff - leaving of worldly things to follow Jesus + persecution!
- Cloud of witnesses! Heb.12:1
- John the Baptist & us! Jn.1:7-8

Discussion Questions:

- When was the last time you had the opportunity to talk to someone about the Lord Jesus?
- Did you take that opportunity and how did it go?!
- Share experiences of sharing your faith.
- What can you learn from any negative experiences you or others have had talking to people about Jesus?
- How up-to-date is your own faith journey?
- Share any experiences with the Lord that have happened to you in the last week or so? I.e. Bible passages or Christian books or answers to prayer or anything else!

Witness:

- Spend some time in prayer for those you know who as yet don't know Christ.
- Ask the Lord to give you opportunities to minister to these people.
- Ask the Lord for courage to invite them along to church with you.