

Wil Owens

Remember as You Go and Tell; Romans 1:16-17

GPBC

3.27.22

Introduction – Today’s message will conclude a 3 week series on evangelism. We’ve looked at Luke 14 – highways and hedges, Acts 1 – His witnesses and today we’re going to look at three things to remember as we go and tell the good news. My purpose in the text selections for this series is that we might see evangelism is a thoroughly NT command and assumption from the gospels to Acts to the epistles. In other words, living and sharing the gospel and taking and supporting the gospel to the ends of the earth is one of the primary functions of the NT church, and therefore of the NT believer. The good news we have been told is meant for us to retell. The salvation we have been given is meant to be shared. The joy of new life naturally overflows and expresses itself. The life of the child of God thrives on two fundamental responses to the gospel that shape and define us – we worship God and we tell others about Jesus. Love God and love others! Glorify God in all we do and make disciples who glorify Him too! Here then are 3 things to remember as we go and tell.

- I. There is No Need to Fear – Romans 1:16-17
 - a. The greatest hindrance to sharing our faith with others is fear. We can speak of the weather, sports, politics, news, events with great ease and enjoyment. But when it comes to matters of eternity and salvation, we clam up and grow silent.
 - b. We fear that we don’t know what to say. We fear that we won’t be able to answer all their questions. We fear reprisals and rejection.
 - c. We use excuses to cover our fear. We are afraid we might push them away. We’re running late and don’t have the time. We haven’t gotten to know them well enough. We don’t want to seem pushy.
 - d. Every believer has experienced a level of timidity and fear when it comes to witnessing for Christ. I have. You have. And we’ve allowed that fear to silence our witness and lose many opportunities to share the only message of hope and eternal life in the world. Ill. drowning
 - e. That’s why I wanted us to look at Romans 1:16 today. We have no need to fear. Paul says I am not ashamed of the gospel. Paul says he’s not going to cower or be paralyzed by timidity or fear when it comes to being a witness for Christ.

- f. Now if anyone would grow fearful of being a witness it would be Paul. He knows the severe consequences that can be faced. He's been rejected, beaten, shouted down, imprisoned, and even left for dead. He knows what it feels like to have an open door right in front of you and all of a sudden feel the choke of fear. That's why he says I am not ashamed of the gospel. I will not be silenced.
- g. Evidently, Paul knows something greater than his fear. He knows a powerful truth that is able to conquer and override his fear in the moment. Something is larger and outweighs all hesitations. He tells us what that mountain-moving, life-changing truth is in the next line.
- h. For it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- i. The power of God for salvation kept Paul from being silenced by fear and it will do the same for us! We can't change a life, but the power of God can. We can't give a new heart, but the power of God can. We can't replace hopelessness with hopefulness and darkness with light and turmoil with peace, but the power of God can. We can't save a single soul, but the power of God can. The power of God raises the dead soul to new life.
- j. And His power is at work when the truth of the gospel is shared. No matter who we may be talking with, family, friend, stranger, or foe – their greatest need is salvation! Without salvation they will spend eternity separated from God. But they'll never believe unless someone tells them about their need of salvation and introduces them to the Savior.
- k. If we will keep in mind and in prayer that Jesus is the only One who can rescue the sinner from hell and God has the power to save the hardest heart – that truth is enough to shatter our fear and empower us to be a faithful witness. There is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. All have sinned but there is a Savior.
- l. There is no need to fear – the message we share is infused with the power of God to save!
- m. It's worth being rejected and shunned. It's worth paying a price. It's worth whatever it may cost if one sinner comes to faith in Christ!

II. You are Not Responsible for the Results – 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

- a. Paul is addressing division in this text but his illustration teaches us something to remember as we go and tell. The results are up to God. Who comes to Christ and who rejects Christ is God's business. Our only calling is to be faithful to share, to be going to the highways and hedges and compelling. God is the One who saves. We're only planters and waterers. We carry seeds and water – God causes the growth.
 - b. You see fear can silence us and carrying the unnecessary burden of the results can too. What if we tell them about Jesus and they refuse Him? Maybe we said or did something wrong. Maybe our life didn't reinforce our witness. Maybe we made it more difficult by sharing the truth. Maybe we shouldn't be worried about the results.
 - c. We shouldn't carry the burden of one who rejects and we shouldn't take the credit for one who receives! We are simply called to bring the good news, to make Jesus known, to speak the truth in love – God handles the rest!
 - d. If we are simply faithful to be His witnesses, He frees us from the burden of the outcome.
 - e. Remember the parable of the 4 soils. The sower went out and spread the seed. Some seed fell on rocky ground, some on hard ground, some on thorny ground – but some fell on good ground. The sower wasn't responsible for the growth, only for the sowing.
 - f. That's what we do as believers. We take the gospel and plant it and water it wherever we go, and by God's grace, at some point, new life appears!
 - g. Sometimes it's a process. We might not see the results of our witness immediately or even in our lifetime. Maybe we planted. Maybe we irrigated. New life comes in God's timing. Just because someone rejects today doesn't mean they will reject tomorrow.
 - h. III. Box garden
 - i. The results are not up to us – only the sharing!
 - III. If that is the case then, we should be scattering as many seed as we can! The more seeds we scatter, the more opportunities we have to find that good ground!
- III. You Always Have Two Subjects to Share – 1 Peter 2:9-10
- a. We can be silenced by fear. We can be silenced by carrying the unnecessary burden of the results. And we can be silenced by

thinking we don't know what to say – but we do know what to say!
We have two subjects at hand in every situation.

b. Our testimony.

i. Before we met Christ. My goal in life before Christ was to be popular and to be liked and to be part of the in crowd. That's all I cared about. So I did what I had to do and said what I had to say. But when all the friends were gone and the party was over and I was by myself – I was empty inside. I couldn't fill the void in my life. I was looking for meaning and a reason to live – and Jesus knocked on my heart and said I am the resurrection and the life – and my life has never been the same!

1. So when someone says my life is a mess and I don't know where to turn. We can say, I used to be that way to but then I met Jesus. Let me tell you about Him.

ii. Life in Christ. We meet people all the time who struggle in life. And we struggle in life. But when we struggle, we have a heavenly Father who listens and answers. When someone says I don't know what to do about this, we can say, I found the answers in Christ. Let me tell you about Him.

c. The excellencies of Christ.

i. If God is big in our life, He will be big in our speech. Get to know Him in His Word, the greater our vision of God, the easier it is to make much of Him when we speak to others. If God is not BIG in your heart, He won't be BIG in your conversations.

ii. Christ is excellent in His Nature. He never sleeps. He never grows tired or weary. He never worries or grows anxious. He never forgets. He never lies. He never has a need. He never quits. He is pure light with no shadow of darkness. He is pure holiness with no moral flaw. He is pure beauty with no imperfection. He is pure love with no malice. He is excellent in His nature.

iii. And He is excellent in His gracious work of redemption. He saves us and keeps us and one day will glorify us. He never leaves us. He empowers us. He forgives us. He guides us. He carries us and strengthens us. He stretches us and teaches us and disciplines us. He loves us.

d. What are we to tell our family and friends and the world as His witnesses? How great is our God!

Conclusion – and the good news is He can be your God too! III. John Newton