

**Sermon Title:** The Process

**Sermon Series:** My Story

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

**Speaker:** Pastor Ian Bonthron



**Harvesting is a \_\_\_\_\_ - it takes multiple people, multiple elements, doing things that seem like they have no impact, to bring about the harvest...But the payoff is Life.**

What's the \_\_\_\_\_ of sharing your faith story?

Why do we share our faith Story?

1. Because we are \_\_\_\_\_

2. Because we love \_\_\_\_\_

Penn Jillette Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6md638smQd8>

### **1 Corinthians 3:5-9 ESV**

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

### **In Sharing Our Faith Story –**

#### **1. We all have a role to play**

### **Acts 1:8 ESV**

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

### **1 Corinthians 3:6 ESV**

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

### **A person generally needs to hear the gospel 7-10 times before they respond**

Dave Earley –

Scenario 1. The Unknown

Scenario 2. The Half Hour

Scenario 3. The One Date

## Scenario 4. The Unknown – Jesus

Sharing Jesus is not just a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ thing> *“[In a secularized society, when people meet] Christ, it will probably be as a result of Christians who view evangelism as a process and a lifestyle, not merely an event. They will be patiently willing to plow, plant, and water before they try to reap (1 Cor 3:6). They will be intentionally willing to build friendships with people far from God and live their Christianity in order to give a clear explanation of the gospel out of an authentic lifestyle and a genuine concern. They will reach people as they allow investigators to belong before they ask them to believe.”*

—Dave Earley, “A Lifestyle,” in *Everyday Evangelism: Sharing the Christian Faith* (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2010), 179.

Our role is to share with our life and words –

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

### **Romans 10:14 ESV**

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

In sharing our faith story –

1. We all have a role to play
2. God is responsible for the \_\_\_\_\_

### **1 Corinthians 3:7-9 ESV**

7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.

**God is the one who changes hearts. He allows you to participate in experiencing life.**

\_\_\_\_\_ your Jesus story, \_\_\_\_\_ God with the results.

**Matthew 9:37b-38**

Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

## Group Questions:

### Getting to know you Questions:

Have you ever worked on a garden or farm? What messes, need for patience, or hard work might you encounter?

### Into the Bible Questions:

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

1. How is sharing one's faith similar to farming?
2. If you are a follower of Jesus, how have you seen God work through your investing in others?
3. Research shows that people need to be invited to receive the gospel a minimum of 7-10 before they are likely to trust Jesus. How would that relate to this verse? How would these verses help with discouragement?
4. Read this quote and answer the questions below:

*"Just because evangelism might be difficult for you, you do not have an excuse to ignore it. When you are obedient in sharing your faith, you are giving God an opportunity to work through you, perhaps even despite you. Jesus told us, "Go!" This was not an option; it was a command!"*  
- William Fay and Linda Evans Shepherd, Share Jesus without Fear, 16–17.

What are some of the excuses we use to rationalize away this quote?

What would change in our life if we took the command to go, seriously?

How might these 5 “start a spiritual conversation” questions help in sharing Jesus?

1. Do you have any Spiritual Beliefs?
2. To you, who is Jesus?
3. Do you believe in heaven or hell?
4. If you die, where would you go? If heaven, why?
5. If what you believe is not true, would you want to know?

### **For Extra Study**

Read Acts 1:6-11

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

1. From this passage, what does Jesus command?

2. Jesus commands us to be witnesses in “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Ends of the Earth.” Jesus started with their neighborhoods, counties, bordering states, and expanded to the rest of the world. If you were to think through those regions in your life, where would they be?

3. What comfort does this passage bring to your life?

4. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

5. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

### **Application Questions**

1. For those that didn't get to share their "my story" last week, What is your "my story"? Using the 3 steps.

Everyone who has trusted Christ has a "my story"

- What my life was like before Christ
- How I met Christ as Savior
- How Christ changed my life

2. Who did you share this with last week? How did it go?

3. How could you continue to invest in their lives?

4. How can our group pray for you about this?

For further help with sharing the gospel:

<https://www.namb.net/evangelism/life-on-mission-app/>

For Group Curriculum and training - Contact the office for a copy of the 6 week - 3 Circles Curriculum