



2023: Be Faithful

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5

Sermon: **Be Faithful with Your Testimony** (Matthew 25:1-13)

Summary: Where did your testimony come from? Your testimony is God's story of your salvation. You are responsible for valuing your testimony as a gift from God. You are responsible for using your testimony. You are responsible and are accountable to God for how you use your testimony to share God's story with others. Make the early months of 2023 an exercise in faithful evaluation and stewardship of your testimony! Steward your testimony in such a way that you will hear the Lord say, "Well Done, good and faithful servant!"

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

Your story is powerful because it is God's story unfolding in your life and he gave it to you!

"Your story is powerful because it happened to you!"
- Pastor Craig Etheredge

Your testimony is an introduction to Jesus for everyone you share it with!

No one can change your story. No one can take your story away from you. No one can contradict your story.

Consider your testimony in these three segments...

1. What was your life like before you met Jesus?

2. How did you come to believe Jesus is the Son of God and know Him as your Savior?
3. How has your life been different since Jesus saved you?

Text FAITHFUL to (228)265-5020 to submit your responses.

Your testimony cannot save someone nor will it condemn someone. You have personal testimonials about books, music, restaurants, movies, hotels, cities and the list could go on and on... These testimonials are of great value to others! Have you visited YELP! How often do you use customer reviews before buying something you have never bought before? Your testimony is like a customer review in that others are looking for your personal experience before they will try something new.

Moving Conversations

1. Causal
2. Personal
3. Meaningful
4. Spiritual
5. Gospel

Acts 26 ~ New Living Translation

Paul describes what his life was like before he met Jesus! (verses 4-11)

Paul shares how he came to know Jesus as his Savior! (verses 12-18)

Paul tells how his life has been different since Jesus saved him! (verses 19-23)

Acts 26:24-29

24 Suddenly, Festus shouted, "Paul, you are insane. Too much study has made you crazy!" 25 But Paul replied, "I am not insane, Most Excellent Festus. What I am saying is the sober truth. 26 And King Agrippa knows about these things. I speak boldly, for I am sure these events are all familiar to him, for they were not done in a corner! 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do—" 28 Agrippa interrupted him. "Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly?" 29 Paul replied, "Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains."

Life Application Questions

1. How often have you “testified” to others about movies, books, music, shops or restaurants from your personal experience? How have people responded to your “testimony” about these things?
2. Have you ever listened to someone tell you how great their experience was with a certain place or event and then taken their “testimony” and acted on it? Have your experiences been good or or have they been bad? Why or why not?
3. How have you responded to people who listen to your “testimony” about movies, books, music, shops or restaurants and then disregard or challenge some aspect of your “testimony”? What have you said? How did they respond? What changed between you and them?
4. If you truly have been saved, you have a testimony of your salvation experience. What is your testimony? Will you share it now?
5. What was your life like before you met Jesus?
6. How did you come to know Jesus as your Savior?
7. How has your life been different since Jesus saved you?