

IN THE WORLD: The Stories we tell! Acts 21:37-40, 22.1-21

There seems to be a universal truth among humans: We like stories!

Our greatest tools in the world are our stories:

- Three stories
- Three connected stories
- Three stories that cannot be ignored
- A central story and 2 illustrative stories!

1. The Power of your Personal Story!

How do we begin?

- All Christians have a story
- A before and an after
- An unsaved and a saved
- What you were and what you are because of Christ!
- What you could have been and what you are because of Christ!
- Fear & peace
- Doubt & hope
- Unhappiness & joy
- Hell & heaven

Acts 22:1 Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you. **Acts 22:2** (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,) **Acts 22:3** I am verily a man which am a Jew, **born** in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet **brought up** in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and **taught** according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

Acts 22:4 And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. **Acts 22:5** As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

Acts 22:19 And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee: **Acts 22:20** And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.

Acts 22:6 And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. **Acts 22:7** And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? **Acts 22:8** And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. **Acts 22:9** And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. **Acts 22:10** And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.

Most of us do not have that spectacular of a conversion but we have a t / c story!

John 4:28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, **John 4:29** Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? **John 4:30** Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

2. The Power of the Gospel Story!

We can never get too far from this! The NT bleeds this story on every page!

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Acts 13:38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: **Acts 13:39** And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation **to every one that believeth**; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, **Come**. And let him that heareth say, **Come**. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely**.

Matthew 11:28 **Come** unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:29 **Take** my yoke upon you, and **learn** of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. **Matthew 11:30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Thoughts:

- **The Gospel is the good news indeed! (εὐαγγέλιον)**
- **Good news of the love of God**
- **Good news of the power of God**
- **Good news of the forgiveness of sin(s)**
- **Good news of the grace of God**
- **Good news of the mercy of God**
- **Good news of the sovereignty of God**

3. The Power of your **Ongoing Story!**

Proverbs 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, That shineth more and more unto the perfect day. **Proverbs 4:19** The way of the wicked is as darkness: They know not at what they stumble.

Love your spouse	Not a gossip / critic
Love your children	Love your family
You have interests	You have accomplishments
You have passions	You are positive
You are interested in them!	You are a good listener
You are thoughtful	You are helpful
You are hospitable	You are (properly) interested