

The Roles of a Witness

John 4:39-45

A Witness Shares God's Way (John 4:39) In the Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman, recorded in John 4:23-26, Jesus is crystal clear to the Samaritan woman that He is the Savior. John 14:6 shares that He is the way. Our job as a witness is to share truth of Christ. What do we need to share?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 gives us this insight: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,"

1. We are sinners separated from God, but He loved us so much that He died for our sins. (John 3:16, 1 Cor. 15:3, Ephesians 2)
2. Jesus died and was buried to fulfill prophecy. (Psalm 22, Isaiah 53)
3. Jesus rose from the dead, conquering death for all who would place faith in Him. (1 Cor. 15:55-58)
4. Jesus is the only way to salvation, peace, joy, and He is the King. (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Phil. 2:6-11)

If you know that Jesus has saved you, you know enough to share how someone can be saved. I know what you're thinking, "pastor this is all you talk about, sharing the gospel!" It's my one gear, my overwhelming conviction, that we must be about this work of witnessing until every lost person is saved! The most important number to a church is not how many people are seating in the pews, the most important number is how many are hearing the gospel, how many are being sent to share Christ.

The result of this conversation is that she believed, because of the woman's testimony, and because of the truth that Christ shared with her. People will believe if we share!

A Witness Remains Steadfast to do God's Work (John 4:40-42) Jesus stayed. He was steadfast to share that He was indeed the Savior. We are to abide in Christ, to be steadfast to be where He has called us. We learn from this passage and other passages, that ministry is hard work, it's messy, it's being around those that make us uncomfortable. We do this in order to proclaim Jesus, we must stay! We must remain steadfast. As a result of this work, both by the woman and by Christ, many more came to believe that Jesus is indeed the Messiah. I like what Paul told the Ephesian elders concerning the work of ministry. **Acts 20:24 "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."** Remain Steadfast! Paul told Timothy, recorded in 2 Timothy 4:5 ***"As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."***

A Witness is to be Sensitive to God's Will (John 4:43-45) We are to approach each day asking God where we are to go today. It has happened on several occasions when I've been driving down the road and the Lord nudges me to stop and talk with someone. Come to find out that they've been praying for answers and they find the gospel very comforting. Jesus moved from Galilee to Cana. May our day be about Jesus and His glory!

There is nothing more important than fully embracing the role of a witness. We do it through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to care for people more than anyone thinks imaginable. Acts 1:8 ***"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."*** Also we see the power of the Holy Spirit in what Jesus tells us in John 14:12 ***"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."***

Because of your faithfulness to witness, generations will be changed for Christ! Families will live for Jesus, even whole towns will renounce crime because of the power of the gospel. My heart hurts for this community, for the Oak Hill community and Poplarville. There are hundreds around us who do not know Jesus as their Savior. May we be joyfully to freely take on the roles of a witness in order to reach many for Christ!