

THE STORY OF EASTER

My Story

This week, I want to bring together the threads of the previous two messages. First, we looked at who Jesus said He was. Last week we looked at the mountain top experiences, the revelation we receive of Jesus – the faith encounter that causes us to believe.

This week, I want to take those threads, knit them together, and bring us to a place of finding our story...

Because who you say Jesus is makes all the difference!

Mark 8:27-29

“But who do you say I am?”

Your Story

Who do you say Jesus is? What is true about Jesus in your life?

Matthew 16:17-17 – even though Peter may have thought it was his keen observation, it was a revelation of God.

Do you have a relationship with Jesus? Because if you do, that has been because God has revealed the truth of who Jesus is to you at some level.

That’s our first mountain top. And if you read the gospels, there wasn’t just one mountain top. There were a number of literal mountain tops and then regular metaphorical mountain tops.

We have these mountain top experiences. What are yours?

What You Say About Jesus

The revelation we receive is a revelation we are empowered to give.

John 4:1-8, 13-20, 25-30, 39-42

And they marvel at her revelation of Jesus, they believed because of her testimony. And they then brought people to hear Jesus, who believed because of His word.

Can you see the flow on effect of a revelation of God?

What is it that Jesus has done in your life? What has He set you free from?
The Good News is good news because it powerfully changes our life!

What has He done in your life? This is what we say about Him.

The 15 Second Testimony:

- + There was once a time when....
- + But then I received Jesus'...
- + Now I live a life of...

Do you have a story like that?

The most difficult part of preparing to answer the question 'Who do you say He is' is actually knowing who we each say He is!

My Story Isn't Just Words

Acts 3:1-10

'What we have, we give you...'

We can give away what we have received! We can only give away what we have – I can't give you a million dollars because I don't have it!

We carry the very presence of God with us, powerful and able to transform people's minds, bodies and souls for all eternity

The way the church grows, the way that the kingdom breaks in, is through the lives of those following Jesus, laying down their plans and purposes to His plan; receiving from Him a revelation in truth and experience, and faithfully sharing that with the world around them.

Discussion and Reflection Questions

1. Who do you say Jesus is? What is true about Jesus in your life? Spend some time journaling the answer, or sharing with others in your Life Group.

2. If He is your Lord, why is He Lord? What is good news about Jesus?

3. We have these mountain top experiences. What are yours? How have they changed your life?

What has He done in your life? This is what we say about Him.

4. Can you see the flow on effect of a revelation of God from your life?

5. Take a moment to work on your 15 second testimony from above. Answer two simple things to each of the prompts (“There was once a time when I...”, etc)

Then share them with one another - and don't forget the question at the end!

6. Take some time to watch the clip on Riverlife's Youtube from Nathan Holland, as he explains how easy it is to share the good news of Jesus with a simple drawing. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE_KFoltpAs)
7. We are able to give away what we have received. What has God done in your life? In your body, mind or spirit? What opportunities have you had to give away the freedom and healing you've received?
8. Spend some time praying for each other in a group setting, or for yourself, that God will open opportunities for you to freely give what you have received from Him.