

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

Telling My Story

Ashamed of Sharing

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

Romans 1:16

What is God saying to you through His word, today? Are you ashamed of sharing?

Romans 10:13-17

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:13-15

Five main participles to help explain the 'anatomy of Salvation'.

1. Salvation

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

sozo - This word is used not just in the one day when Jesus returns, He will save you and take you to heaven, but it's also used in the sense that Jesus has already saved you when you repented and believed, and He will continue to save you until He comes again.

Salvation is close to you today.

2. Belief

"How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?" Romans 10:14a

"The time has come," he said, The Kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news" Mark 1:15.

To believe in Jesus is to repent and obey Him. Do you really trust God today?

“Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes.”
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

3. Hear

“How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?” Romans 10:14b

Hearing, according to God, is pretty important.

God shows us that hearing is vital to belief. The word here is *akouo*, which is where we get the English word acoustic from. It’s like the message of the gospel has been echoed out through all history, waiting to land on open ears.

So when did you first hear the gospel?

4. Preach

“How can they hear without someone preaching to them?” Romans 10:14c

This is why preaching is important. It is important that you hear someone preaching, and that you sit under the preaching of your church leadership, not someone else.

The word here is *kērussō*, meaning to proclaim, to announce publicly or to publish. But this is not reserved for the preacher, as much as it is reserved for the disciple.

“Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed His word by the signs that accompanied it.” Mark 16:20.

“It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching.”
St Francis of Assisi

5. Sent

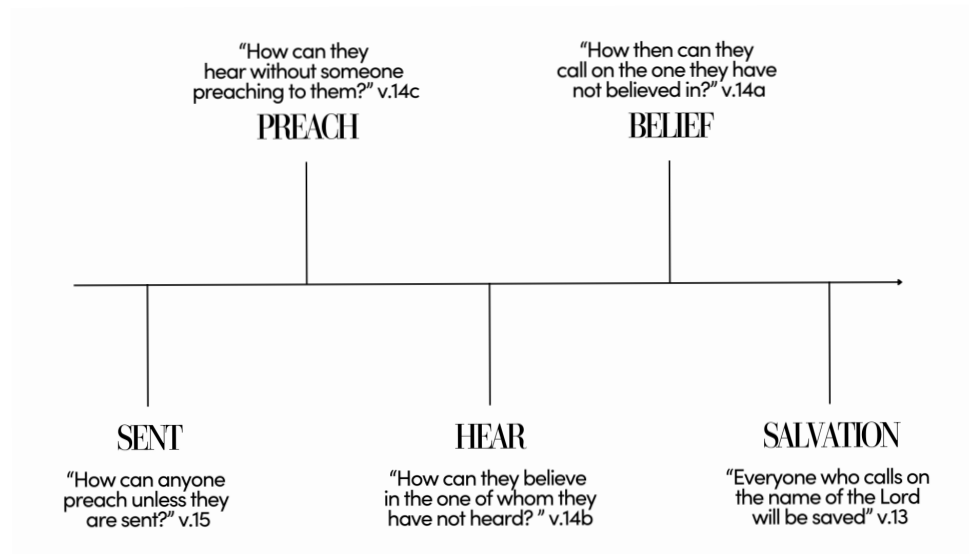
“How can anyone preach unless they are sent?” Romans 10:15

“So, then, the entire source and origin of salvation rests on this, that God sends out someone.” Martin Luther

The good news, is you have been sent!

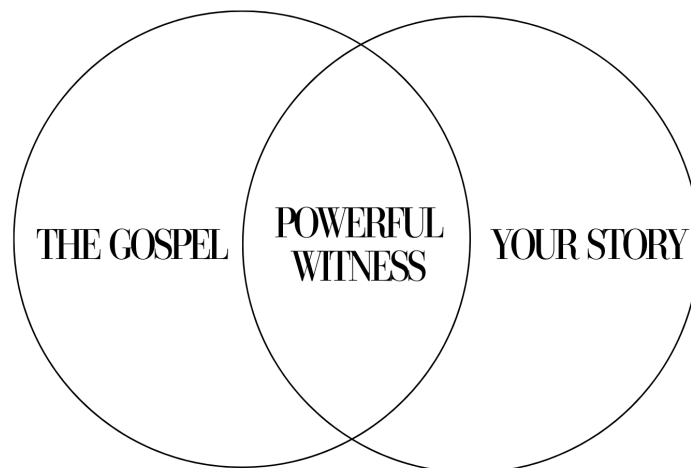
“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19–20.

The Father sent the Son. The Father and Son send the Spirit. Now, just as the Father sent the Son, God the Father and Son, by the Spirit send us.



Sharetember

We are all sharing stories, each and every week, but what story are you sharing? The most powerful story you can share is when God's story, the Gospel, interacts with your story, becoming a powerful witness.



Powerful Witness – Your Testimony

Try to answer these questions with one word each. Then build into one sentence each. This forms a short 15 second testimony useful for all occasions.

1. Who were you before you met God?
2. What was the moment you encountered God?
3. Who are you after meeting God?

Across the month of September, I want to call you to a 30 day challenge - to share the gospel every single day with someone.

The Moravians

Led by a rich German landowner, Count Ludwig von Zinzendorf, these disciples understood The Great Commission and the power of sharing their story.

- + Outpouring moves at the rate of relationship
- + The Moravians committed to a whole of life community and fellowship
- + 100 years of non-stop 24/7 prayer and worship
- + Some Moravians sold themselves into slavery to share the gospel to those in slavery
- + "We often boast about the bloody wounds He felt for all of us on the wood"
- + "May the Lamb receive the reward of His sufferings".

Jesus is the Good Samaritan

"But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'" Luke 10:33-35

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever considered that Jesus is the Good Samaritan? How does this change how you love your neighbour?
2. Have you ever felt ashamed to share the Gospel? Why? Why not?
3. Spend some time talking through your 'Powerful Witness – Your Testimony'. Try to keep it to 15 seconds to begin with, then extend it from there.
4. Have you considered joining a Riverlife Reach Out team (Juvie, Red Frogs, Street Teams, etc.)?

Extra Resources:

1. The Cost of Discipleship – Dietrich Bonhoeffer
2. The Master Plan of Evangelism – Robert E Coleman
3. Perspectives on the World Christian Movement – Winter & Hawthorne
4. Kingdom Vision – Jon Tyson & Suzy Silk
5. Grace at Work – Bryan Chapell