

Evangelism Class 3 Sharing My Story

Evangelism literally means to 'Good News' someone. It means to share or proclaim the good news of Jesus. This immediately raises a question of 'Why?' There are two parts to the answer...one part is that the sharer believes the message is true...the second part of the answer is that the sharer has experienced the message as true. It is this second part I want us to look at tonight.

Each year we elect a Nominating Committee to nominate our congregation leaders to serve as elders and deacons. We are required as a Session to examine each of them as to their Christian experience. We ask each candidate, "How did you come to trust Christ as your Savior?" or, if that is not a comfortable way to ask it, "How did your faith become your own?" We ask each candidate to prepare to answer such a question in 3 to 5 minutes. For some there is a dramatic change from unbelief to belief...for others there is not such a clear before and after only a progression from an environment of faith to a more personal embrace of faith. There is not one right way...there is only our way...our story. Often when young couples meet and start to get to know each other, they share their story of meeting, coming to know each other, and 'knowing' this is 'the One'. No two stories are exactly the same. This is also true to our knowing Christ. Because our faith is relational, we each have our own story of how we entered this relationship. We should learn to share our story, easily, naturally, and readily. Often we imagine that our faith is so personal that we do not think to share the story. But more than anything else our story is our witness. It is what we ourselves have experienced and seen...so it is the primary substance of our witness...hence it is often called 'our testimony'. There will, of course, be long versions and short versions...tonight I would like to ask you to share a short version with someone you do not know well in class.

Pick someone and share your story...We will take 10 to 12 minutes for both of you to tell your story. This will probably mean you will need to move. So how did you come to trust Christ as your Savior?

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Why do you think our stories have power? If Psalm 139 is true...Who is the author of 'your' story? Telling your story is both a form of witness, testifying to what you have seen and heard and experienced...but it is also a form of worship. How so?

Sharing stories transform strangers into something else...why is that?