

Sermon Series: *Personal Evangelism*

4/26/26, “Your Story,” Acts 26:4-23, MEV

INTRODUCTION How many have had a story change your life?

People said what Paul wrote could be difficult to understand, but when it came to telling people about Jesus, he kept it simple.

Witness: *Martus* = one who has information or knowledge of something, and, thus, can give information, light or confirm a thing

MAIN IDEA: Tell others your story. Why? Here are two reasons.

NOTE: Jesus told Paul to be a witness, both of what he had seen and of what Jesus would reveal to him. (vs. 16)

I. First, your story is truth.

- A. what your life was before Jesus (4-11)
 1. spiritual background (even how closely you adhered to your “faith”)
 2. how your beliefs influenced your behavior (how you treated others, 9-11)
- B. how you met Jesus (12-18)
 1. what you were doing (12)
 2. how Jesus came to you (13-15)
 3. what Jesus spoke to you or showed you (16-18)
- C. What your life has been like since (19-23)
 1. how you have obeyed Jesus (how you have served Him & others)
 2. how God has helped you (22)

ILLUSTRATION: Andy saved at church/me by Andy’s story

II. Second, your story can lead to salvation (18)

- A. it can open people’s eyes—*shining light into darkness*

Open: give the ability to understand

1. all are blinded by Satan to their lostness & guilt
2. they do not understand the Truth

EX: “I had always thought that God was a hard God, that we must do something to appease him. It was a new thought to me that Christ was waiting for me to open to him.”

- B. it can turn them from the power of Satan to God

Turn: convert, turn towards

Power: authority, rule, dominion

1. from Satan’s authority & rule = death, destruction
2. to God’s authority & rule = life

EX: *I turned from occultic things to Bible & prayer*

- C. it can help them to receive forgiveness for their sins

1. for all past deeds, words, thoughts
2. that they might now forgive others—be freed from bitterness, enslavement

EX: *God to me: “Isn’t My cross sufficient?”*

- D. it can help them to be sanctified by faith in Christ

Sanctify: made holy; to separate from what is vulgar/irreverent/contemptible; to cleanse & purify

1. set apart from the world—in but not conforming to

Romans 12:2, TPT: Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think.

2. set apart for God’s purposes & uses

EX:

ILLUSTRATION: Each tiny particle of a magnet, if broken off, is magnetic & sends out influence from its 2 little poles—so the smallest & feeblest faith is 1 in character in intrinsic value with the loftiest & superbest.

CONCLUSION: God can use you to reach someone for Jesus that others of us never have opportunity to talk with.

ALTAR: Salvation? Wandered away after committing? Want to come back after having wandered away? Fear (come to altar for elders to pray for)