



PART 4

Telling Your Story

OVERVIEW: Our witness should come from ...

1. Strong CONVICTION 2. PASSION / COMPASSION 3. OVERFLOW

→ *What strong convictions do you need? What is the difference between evangelism by overflow and evangelism by works?*

5 T's we can offer people

1. TRUST

- * Sometimes people are QUICK TO SPEAK before they've EARN'T THE RIGHT.
- * RESPECT is earned, TRUST is built, AUTHORITY isn't just assumed.

→ *What does it take before you'll listen to someone? What are you looking for? What puts you off?*

→ *It used to be that your title brought you instant trust. People are instinctively cautious, suspicious, guarded. There are so many voices out there in Google world. Discuss!*

→ *How do you earn trust? What does that trust look like? How long does it take? How might you jeopardise that trust?*

3 KEY COMPONENTS

- AUTHENTICITY
- INTEGRITY
- CONSISTENCY

The knock-on: If they don't TRUST you, they won't BELIEVE you.

→ *What does authenticity, integrity and consistency look like? Why won't they trust you if you don't have them? Why won't they believe you if they don't trust you?*

2. TRUTH

- * The good news is that we do have TRUTH ON OUR SIDE.
- * Always remember that TRUTH must be carefully wrapped in GRACE.
- * Jesus rarely RAMMED TRUTH down vulnerable people's throats; He was far more RELATIONAL and SKILFUL.
- * One of the skills Jesus modelled was the ability to ASK GOOD QUESTIONS.
- * If you can get to the HEART of the MATTER, you're much more likely to get to the MATTERS of the HEART.

→ *What does truth wrapped in grace look like? What is the danger of grace-less truth? Are there similar dangers in truth-less grace?*

→ *How did Jesus use truth? How did He not use it?*

→ *Lee Strobel quote: "That's a great question. Of all the thousands of questions you could ask, why did you ask that one?" Why is that such a clever approach?*

3. TESTIMONY (Rev 12:11)

- * Testimony is POWERFUL; YOUR testimony is POWERFUL.
 - * One of the best ways to OPEN a HEART is through a GOOD STORY.
- *Do you believe your testimony is powerful? If so, why? If not, why not?*

FROM THE VIDEO: The Big No-No's

- LONG-WINDED stories
- FUZZY stories
- SUPERIORITY stories
- RELIGIONESE stories
- WEIRD GOD stories

→ *If these are the things that make for a bad story, what goes into making a good one?*

- * Jesus was a MASTER STORY-TELLER → He painted PICTURES, got to the point QUICKLY, provided strong CONTRASTS, appealed to the HEART, spoke LANGUAGE they understood and covered MATERIAL they could RELATE to.

- * Bill Hybels' Advice = A SIMPLE BEFORE & AFTER story

→ *What was so good about Jesus' parables? What are the key words / concepts you should put into your God story? What are some of the powerful before and after contrasts you can use?*

→ *What is the aim of a good God Story?*

4. TRANSFORMATION

- * Concentrate on YOUR transformation and let GOD worry about THEIRS.
- * Yes, tell your story, but above all, PROVIDE the EVIDENCE.
- * Let them SEE what the Lord has done ... Let your ACTIONS speak louder than your WORDS ... Let them OBSERVE for themselves EVIDENCE of the transformation you're promising them.
- * "Lord, let them see YOU in ME. Let them see YOU rather than ME. Let my WALK match my TALK."

→ *Why are actions more important than words? What is the transformation we're talking about here? What evidence are they looking for? Why is evidence so important?*

5. TIMELINE

- * Be very careful how you use SOCIAL MEDIA → Without thinking it through you can UNDO all the GOOD WORK.
- * You can DISCREDIT your TESTIMONY, CONTRADICT your TRANSFORMATION and DISMANTLE the TRUST.

→ *How does all that happen? And why is it so devastating to your Christian witness?*

→ *What pitfalls are out there in social media world? How do people lose your respect?*

WRAP UP & CHALLENGE

When should you tell your story? How should you tell your story? Can you tell your story? Has anyone's story dramatically affected you?

Take time for people around the room to share their stories. Why not critique them graciously and encouragingly but honestly and helpfully?