

The Power of Story

Psalm 78:1-4

INTRODUCTION

As Christians our commission from the King is to go out into all the world and share the good news that God has visited His creation in the person of Jesus, the Christ. With this visitation He is bringing hope in the form of truth and love in the form of forgiveness to any and all who will surrender their lives to Him. The story of Jesus is often described as the “Greatest Story Ever Told.”

Christians need to learn to be creative in telling this story which goes beyond mere door knocking and passing out of tracks to strangers who look at us weird. Christian evangelism should be more involved than that where we actually get to know the person, build relationship, and tell our stories with each other.

The art of storytelling is becoming quickly lost in our techno age of information. We are swimming in information but don't know a thing. We have lost the arc and art of storytelling because we have become an information rich culture with no patience.

Telling our story matters though! It makes it real to others the experiences we are trying to share. Telling our story takes the message of the Gospel out of the mere theoretical and mystical into the present reality, the here and the now.

Psalm 78:1-4

O my people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in parables,
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
what we have heard and known,
what our fathers have told us.
We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.¹

¹[*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (Ps 78:1–4). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

I. The Apostles told the message of the Gospel mainly through their story of experiencing Jesus.

- A. Story telling is the essence of why the Gospels were written.
- B. The early Apostles wrote down their stories of experiencing Jesus in different settings which we now know are the stories of Christ.
- C. The story of their experiences with Jesus becomes the story of Jesus which is the story of God.
- D. The whole Bible is a collection of individual stories that together reveal the story of Yahweh in human history.
- E. The Church should be more open about telling the Christ story of our own lives.
- F. Others will take the Gospel story more seriously if they can first see it in our story.

Watchman Nee

There are five Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John & the Christian and some never read the first four.

II. Jesus told stories to teach truth and of His Kingdom

- A. Jesus often spoke in parables as a primary way of communication.
- B. Jesus was a story teller.
- C. Parables are mini stories of God's truth. They are stories to also make one think in their search for truth.
- D. The greatest story Jesus ever told was the story of His life lived in full submission to God's will so that God's love could be revealed.

III. Each person has a story to tell

- A. The most important story we can tell is the story of God in our own lives.
- B. What makes up history are our stories.
- C. How many of us have learned from others story, but don't think others may learn from ours?
- D. The purpose of our story is not to glorify ourselves but rather reveal the grace of Jesus.
- E. A lot of people like to tell their story, but it's not for the glory of God. It often becomes about getting attention or standing in the spotlight. We must be willing to, as we said last week, deny ourselves so that God's story is revealed in our story.
- F. Telling our story is an important way we love our neighbor because not only will they hopefully see God in our story, but they will also see the "real" us.
- G. Telling God's story in our lives makes the truth revealed more relatable to others.

C.S. Lewis

You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.

Conclusion

Fresh Start with an Open Heart Ministry