



Pentecost

24th May 2015

Jabbering for Jesus

- o The Church began as people spilled out onto the streets and began talking about Jesus, the faith they had and the experience they had in following him.
- o Since then the most powerful thing in seeing others come to faith is someone else's story
- o In the dark times of the Church we thought we could win people with Theological principles but time and time again, it is another person's story that gets through

We learn from others experience

- o Biographies, auto biographies, dramas based on true stories, fictional representations of people and their stories, these are the things every culture tells to each other, as a way of passing on wisdom, truth, faith and understanding.
- o Counsellors, workshops, teaching seminars are deliberately fuelled with stories of people who have learnt these ideas and gone on to some sort of success
- o The Bible as a story book not rulebook

Is it surprising?

- o Jesus said “be my witnesses” which means “talk about your faith”.

Talk about MY faith???

Never-----Always

Hate it-----Love it

Inadequate-----Victorious



What holds you Back?

An idea for sharing your faith

- o BC
- o The year of our Lord
- o AD

o That is, My Life...

- o Before Christ
- o The new birth
- o After the Darkness

But there may be a problem

- o Often “Formula Talks” do not come across that real
- o The story often has holes and may contain
 - o a little untruth here
 - o a little exaggeration there
 - o a little keeping silent about certain things

A need for the real story

- o **Your** experience is important and what you think about **your** experience is important because **you** are important to the body of Christ
- o It's the real stories that connect with other people and help them connect, not only to God, but to one another in the body of Christ, which is also of immense importance
- o Real stories don't always have happy endings

I Love the Psalms

- o The brutal honesty of elation and depression, of soaring faith and the heartache of doubt
- o An example for us that it's ok not to have it all together?
- o Check out Psalm 119
- o And Psalms 20, 121 and 120
- o And all of this is Worship??
- o Does God approve of us opening up to each other and himself like this without fear?

Telling Our Stories

- o Some Wisdom is required!
- o Does something for us too
- o (Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of the Lord)
- o Not trying to persuade the other person, you are not selling, just telling.
- o The BC –YOOL – AD could work as a framework or the pattern of a psalm.

Making it clear

- o Finding the right words to convey what we believe may help our confidence to speak up
- o Deal with your fears – pray about them (honestly)
- o Remember it is OK to not get it perfect
- o It's OK to write it down first!
- o Remember your story is also important – it may seem a small insignificant thing, but it can be used by God for great things

Homework

- o Choose an experience, a challenge, a problem, or something that went well
- o Identify your thoughts and feelings at the time
- o Meditate – think/pray deeply about what it was all about – Where was God / Jesus
- o Rehearse your story with a friend
- o Keep it real
- o Come ready to share it next Sunday!