

The Power of Story

5/2/10

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John 9:1-38

Acts 2:36-37 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ***When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart*** and said to Peter and the other apostles, "***Brothers, what shall we do?***"

Ecclesiastes 6:11 says that when used sparsely ... succinctly ... words carry ***great meaning***. **Psalm 119:130** says that words can actually ***give light***. Words can give understanding to those who don't yet understand.

Proverbs 12:18 says that although reckless words pierce like a sword, words from the tongue of the wise can actually bring ***healing!***

Proverbs 17:27 says that when used with restraint, words prove you're a person of ***knowledge!***

Ecclesiastes 9:17 says that words you speak will be heeded when they are spoken ***quietly!***

Proverbs 16:24 says that pleasant words are a ***honeycomb***, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Ecclesiastes 10:12 says that although a fool is consumed by his own lips, the words from a ***wise*** man's mouth are ... ***gracious***.

Deuteronomy 32:2 says words can actually descend like *dew*, like showers on new grass, like ***abundant*** rain on tender plants.

Humble words. Healing words. Wise words. Gentle words. *Grace-filled* words.
Are *these* the types of words you're known for speaking?

Last week: Living in 3D

- ***Developing friendships***
- ***Discovering stories***
- ***Discerning next steps***

What if it works?

How do we talk about God in a way that's full of ***clarity and passion?***... explaining who he is and what he has done.

How do we convey our personal faith stories in a way that's humble and interesting?...our ***personal experience*** with God ... explaining the ***main thing*** he's done in our lives.

1 Peter 3:15 ... ***Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*** But do this with ***gentleness and respect,***

Learning to tell God's story

John 3:16-17 "For ***God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but ***to save the world through him.***

Bridge and Ladder

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

You have a story

1. Make it personal

John 9:11 ... "The man they call ***Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes***. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So ***I went and washed, and then I could see.***"

2. Make it simple

John 9:15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. ***"He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."***

1 Corinthians 14:9 So if you speak ***in a way no one can understand***, what's the point of opening your mouth? Msg

- Short... ***to the point***
- Clear... ***keep on track***
- non religious
- Humble

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is ***by grace you have been saved***, through faith--and this ***not from yourselves***, it is the ***gift of God***-- not by works, so that no one can boast.

3. Make it about change... *before and after*

John 9:25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. ***One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!***"

4. Make it about Jesus

John 14:6 Jesus answered, ***"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.***