

Outline #2 Winsome Witnesses: The power of personal testimony

O give thanks to the LORD, Psalm 105:1-5

1. Unlikely witnesses

- a) Mark 5:1-5, 6-13, 14-17, 18-20 (see also Luke 8:38-39). Why did Jesus send this former demoniac back to his people rather than allowing him to join the band of disciples who traveled with Jesus?
- b) How did the personal testimony of this former demoniac impact those who heard his story?
- c) Name some other unlikely witnesses whose stories are recorded in the New Testament.
- d) Share a time when you heard a remarkable testimony from an unlikely witness.

2. Proclaiming the Risen Christ

- a) Mark 16:9-11 (see also John 20:11-18) What was Mary Magdalene's reaction after she encountered Jesus risen from the dead?
- b) What important lesson can we learn from Peter and John when instructed by the Sanhedrin to stop sharing their testimony about Jesus? Acts 5:26-29
- c) Share a time when you felt compelled to give your testimony about Jesus, even when some didn't want to listen or actively opposed you.
- d) What is an appropriate response when someone tells you, "I don't want to hear your testimony about Jesus"?

3. The testimony of a transformed life

- a) Acts 4:5-13 Why was the testimony about Jesus given by Peter and John so compelling?
- b) Acts 26:9-18 Why was the testimony of Paul before King Herod Agrippa so powerful?
- c) What elements of Paul story, recorded in Acts 9:1-25, are omitted in his testimony before Herod Agrippa? Why?
- d) How is the apostle John's testimony different from that of the apostle Paul? What do they have in common? 1 John 1:1-4
- e) Share a testimony of a transformed life that made a profound impression on you.

4. Sharing your personal testimony

- a) What key elements should be included every time we share our testimony as a follower of Jesus?
- b) Think of a time when you shared your testimony, either with an individual or a group. How did this experience impact your life? How did your testimony impact your hearers?
- c) Who would be willing to share a testimony today of how knowing Jesus has impacted your life?
- d) How has your attitude about sharing your testimony changed as a result of this study?

