

# **Tell Your Story**

## **Part 2 – The Best Part of Our Story**

### **Acts 26**

As a Church Family, we have a three-tiered strategy

- Culture of Invitation – baseline expectation that every person consistently invites people to church
- Tell Your Story – bear testimony to what God has done
- Share the Gospel – invite people to believe in who Jesus is and what He has done

BABYLON BEE – how to spice up your testimony

- Never be ashamed of your story – no matter how dramatic or how “normal”
- Remember – Jesus is not ashamed of you (Heb 2.11)

#### **“I was...” (v.1-11)**

- Religious: I thought I was doing God a favor
- Irreligious: I tried to numb the ache of my soul
- Danger: glorifying the sin (if it smells like nostalgia that’s a problem)
- “I was separated from God because of my sin”

#### **“Then Jesus...” (v.12-18)**

- This is a story God has been writing for a long time (v.6, 22-23)
- This is a story of how God rescued you
  - He intercepts (v.12-13)
  - He pursues (v.14)
    - Even when it’s painful, it’s still pursuit
    - More than one way (goads) that God grabs your attentions
  - He reveals (v.15-18)
- Danger: making ourselves the hero of our story
- “Then Jesus rescued me, forgave me, and gave me life”

#### **“Now I...” (v.19-29)**

- The impact is consequential (v.19-20)
  - Consequence #1: He was saved from penalty of sin and delivered from power of sin (v.18)
  - Consequence #2: He immediately began preaching (9.20)
    - The transformation was so radical they didn’t know who he was – didn’t have all the answers
    - How are you different today because Jesus is in your life?

- His story led to the Gospel (v.21-23)
- His story intended to persuade (v.24-29)
  - He wasn't informing, he was inviting
  - How is someone else's life different because Jesus is in your life?
- "Now I have been transformed by Jesus and I \_\_\_\_\_"

#### Questions for Discussion

1. For context, read Acts 9.1-22 (the story of Saul the Pharisee's conversion into Paul the Christian). After reading it, what stands out to you? Do you identify with any particular part of Paul's story? Did you see anything you haven't seen before?
2. In the "I Was..." section of the sermon, the two kinds of history that show up in our stories are religious or irreligious. Which do you most fall into? How honest are you with your family about this? How has it shaped your understanding of God?
3. In the "Then Jesus..." section of the sermon, Jesus rescues us by intercepting us, pursuing us, and revealing Himself to us. What are some ways (people, circumstances, etc.) that God used to pursue you? Were they more painful or more miraculous?
4. Paul immediately began preaching Jesus as the Son of God (cf. Acts 9.20). His calling was evident throughout his life and ministry. How would you describe your sense of purpose now that Jesus has rescued you? What are three practical differences it makes?
5. The point of Paul sharing his story with Agrippa was to persuade the king to become a follower of Jesus (v.28-29). Who do you have the opportunity to share your story with this week who needs the same thing? Close with prayer for an open door to share and a commitment to walk through that door when it opens.