

Tell Your Story

Part 1 – I Don't Know All the Answers

John 9

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

Get clear on the Author and the actor (v.1-5)

- We see scenes but He sees the story
 - Not as concerned with my history as with my future
 - Why did this happen? That the works of God might be displayed
 - How could you worship a God like that? Because He's the only one who can do anything about it
 - JUSTIN – "I know a guy. How it's going to work out, I don't know. But I know who is going to work it out."
- God will allow what He hates to accomplish what He loves

Don't be afraid of the messy parts (v.6-23)

- Physically messy (v.6-12)
 - God uses physical challenges to test our spiritual grit HACKSAW RIDGE
 - It was about 500 yds from Temple Mount to Pool of Siloam
- Spiritually messy (v.13-17)
 - If you have a God you fully grasp, you don't have the God of the Bible
 - Opposition to your story almost always has an ulterior motive (typically someone with something to protect)
- Relationally messy (v.18-23)
 - Family is often the context in which our story occurs – for good or ill

The more he told his story, the more confident he grew (v.24-38)

- He grew confident about what happened (v.24-27)
 - Fear: what if I get asked something I don't know the answer to?
 - Did you tell the truth?
 - Did you speak plainly?
 - Are you responsible for their response?
 - Because God is working things out, you won't know all the answers to the questions you have or others have

- He grew confident about who helped (v.28-38)
 - “The man” v.11 -> “A prophet” v.17 -> “From God” v.33 -> “Lord” v.38

VIDEO: Here’s someone who has no frame of reference for love, but Jesus opens her eyes to believe it and know it. So many lives are changed because of her story and her willingness to tell it

Questions for Discussion:

1. What’s the best story you have heard lately? In what context was it told (movies, drama, from a friend, on ESPN, etc.)? What made it particularly compelling to you?
2. In the section on God as Author and we as actors, we talked about how we only see scenes but God sees the entire story. How have you found that to be true in your own life (or someone close to you)? How has God used that for ministry?
3. In the section about not being afraid of the messy parts, we listed three different messes from the story. Take a moment and reread the verses associated with each. What stands out? What is most descriptive of your story – the physical, spiritual, or relational mess?
4. Trent argued that a primary and common fear in not telling our story is the fear of being asked something we don’t know the answer to. Has that been true in your life? How have you (or could you) overcome that fear?
5. The confidence of the man grew as he continued to tell his story. Read Philemon 6. Paul reiterates there that confidence grows as we share our faith. How did that happen with the man in John 9? How has that happened to you (or someone close to you)?