



Week of October 3, 2021

In the Habit of Sharing Your Story

Mark 1:40-45

Day One: Acts 1:8

⁸ *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

- When have others shared their faith story with you? What was helpful to you? What wasn't helpful? What ultimately moved you to become a follower of Jesus?

Day Two: Read Psalm 71:12-24

¹² *O God, don't stay away.*

My God, please hurry to help me.

¹³ *Bring disgrace and destruction on my accusers.*

Humiliate and shame those who want to harm me.

¹⁴ *But I will keep on hoping for your help;*

I will praise you more and more.

¹⁵ *I will tell everyone about your righteousness.*

*All day long I will proclaim your saving power,
though I am not skilled with words.*

¹⁶ *I will praise your mighty deeds, O Sovereign Lord.*

I will tell everyone that you alone are just.

¹⁷ *O God, you have taught me from my earliest childhood,*

and I constantly tell others about the wonderful things you do.

¹⁸ *Now that I am old and gray,*

do not abandon me, O God.

Let me proclaim your power to this new generation,

your mighty miracles to all who come after me.

¹⁹ *Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the highest heavens.*

You have done such wonderful things.

Who can compare with you, O God?

²⁰ *You have allowed me to suffer much hardship,*

but you will restore me to life again

and lift me up from the depths of the earth.

²¹ *You will restore me to even greater honor*

and comfort me once again.

²² *Then I will praise you with music on the harp,*

because you are faithful to your promises, O my God.

I will sing praises to you with a lyre, O Holy One of Israel.

²³ *I will shout for joy and sing your praises,*

for you have ransomed me.

²⁴ *I will tell about your righteous deeds all day long,*

for everyone who tried to hurt me

has been shamed and humiliated.

- The author of this Psalm seems pretty excited to tell others about God and what God has done (read the first half of the Psalm if you want to know why!). What holds you back from telling others about God and what God has done in your life?

Day Three: Read Philippians 2:1

¹ *Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?*

- Paul asks four pointed questions in this single verse. How would you answer each of them for yourself? Your answers are an important part of your story.

Day Four: Read Mark 1:40-45

⁴⁰ *A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said.* ⁴¹ *Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!"* ⁴² *Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed.* ⁴³ *Then Jesus sent him on his way with a stern warning:* ⁴⁴ *"Don't tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed."* ⁴⁵ *But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and he couldn't publicly enter a town anywhere. He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to him.*

- Why do you think that the leper disobeyed Jesus' command to remain silent? What has Jesus done in your life that you just can't keep quiet about?

Day Five: Read Psalm 145:1-4

¹ *I will exalt you, my God and King,
and praise your name forever and ever.*

² *I will praise you every day;
yes, I will praise you forever.*

³ *Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!
No one can measure his greatness.*

⁴ *Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;
let them proclaim your power.*

- Who are the children in your life, even if they aren't yours biologically? How can you tell them the story of who God is and what God has done in your life?