



WINSOME WITNESSES: THE POWER OF PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Lesson 2 for July 11, 2020

What is personal testimony?

It is to share what Jesus has done in our lives and how He has transformed us with others. It is to tell others about God's amazing grace, and how grateful we are for His salvation. It is to speak of how Jesus loves us and how we love Him.



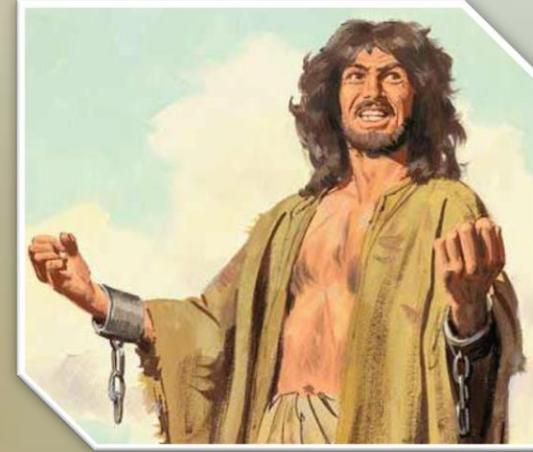
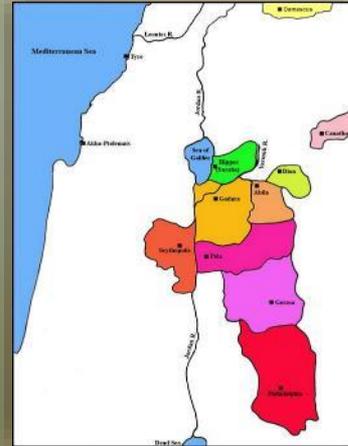
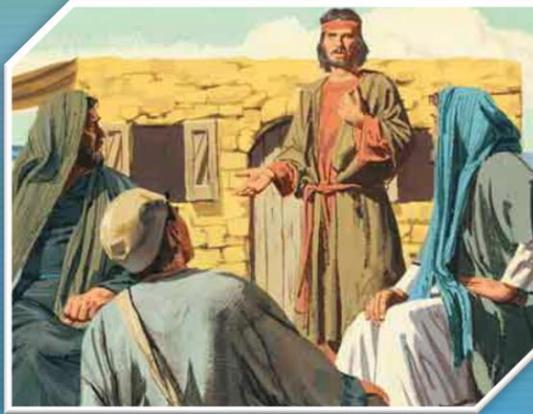
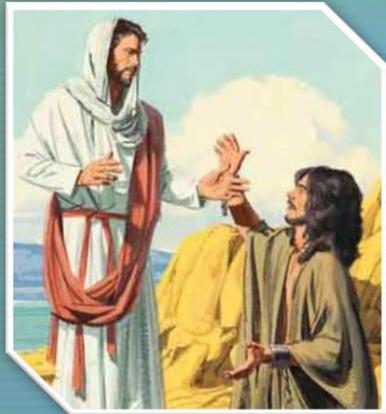
- ✔ The testimony of the possessed man
 - ➔ An unlikely witness
- ✔ The testimony of Mary
 - ➔ Boundless joy
- ✔ The testimony of Peter and John
 - ➔ Impossible silence
- ✔ The testimony of Paul
 - ➔ Daily conversion
 - ➔ A powerful personal testimony

AN UNLIKELY WITNESS

“And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.” (Mark 5:20)

Decapolis was a group of ten cities close to the Sea of Galilee. They shared a Greco-Roman culture (not Jewish).

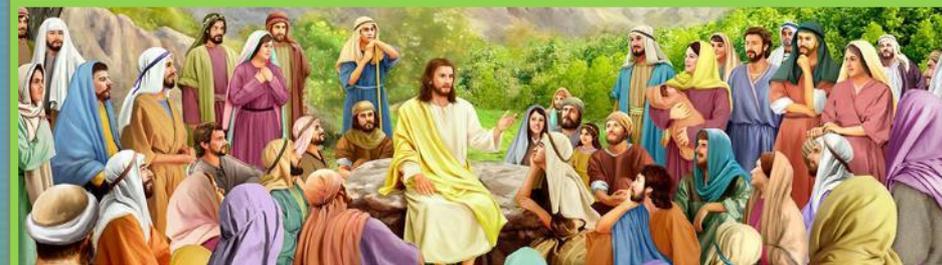
When Jesus arrived, only a violent possessed man welcomed Him. Jesus released him from the demons that were tormenting him.



The man was restored physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. He wanted to stay with Jesus.

However, Jesus chose him to be the first missionary. His mission was a simple one, to tell others what Jesus had done for him.

Thanks to his testimony, a great crowd gathered to listen to Jesus some months later (Mark 8:1-10).



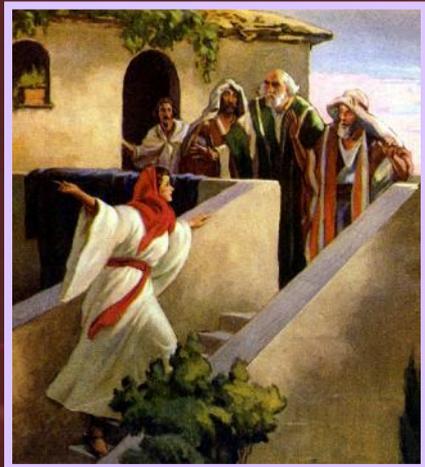
BOUNDLESS JOY

“She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept.” (Mark 16:10)

On Resurrection Sunday, Mary traded grief for happiness, weeping for joy, despair for hope.

Meeting Jesus that day filled her with excitement. She couldn't help but run and tell everyone the good news.

We should also run and share our experience after meeting Jesus. Because good news is worth sharing.



However, no one believed her (Mark 16:11). Don't expect everyone to believe our words immediately. They all believed eventually!



IMPOSSIBLE SILENCE

“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20)

The transformation of the apostles was impressive. Even their enemies could see that they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

Peter

From self-sufficient

to Christ-dependent

John

From son of thunder

to apostle of love

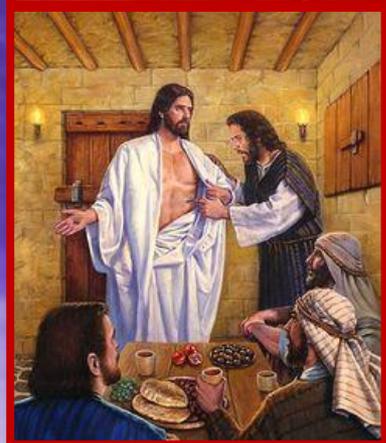
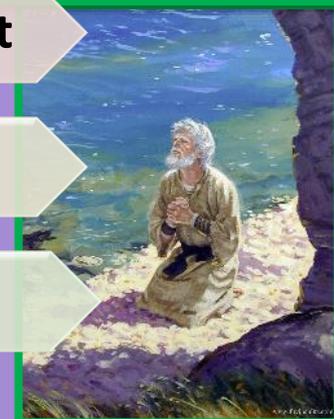
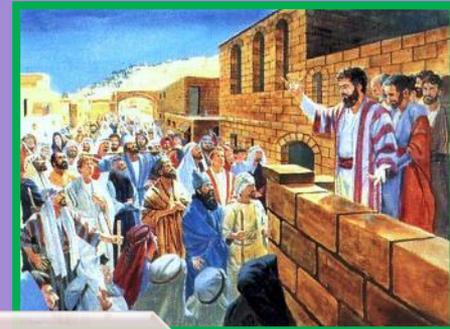
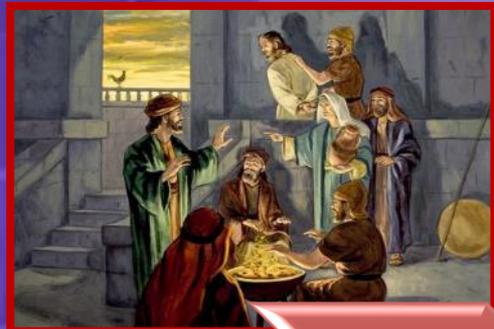
Thomas

From skeptic

to believer

Each apostle had a different experience. They could share a personal and unique testimony.

Jesus is transforming us too. We should share our personal experience even during hard times.



DAILY CONVERSION

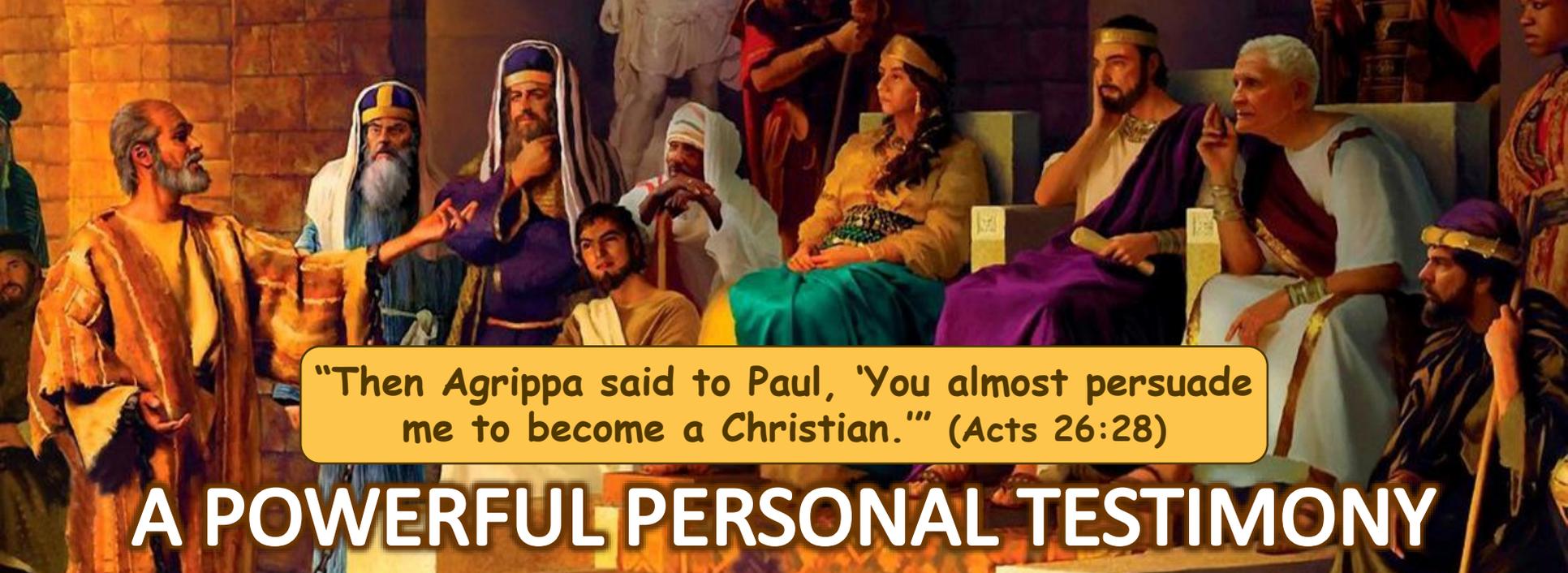
**"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."
(Galatians 2:20)**

The conversion of Paul is one of the most spectacular ones. His vision of resurrected Jesus triggered a radical change in his life.

**When sharing his testimony, he didn't just talk about that one-time change in his life. He explained that God was still working in his life. His conversion was renewed daily, "I die daily."
(1 Corinthians 15:31)**

**Witnessing is not about us, but God. It is to share His forgiveness of sins, His daily blessings, His inexhaustible grace, His everlasting love...
(Psalm 103:3; Lam. 3:23; Jn. 1:16; Jer. 31:3).**





"Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'You almost persuade me to become a Christian.'" (Acts 26:28)

A POWERFUL PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Herod Agrippa II was raised in Rome under the protection of Emperor Claudius. He was given the small kingdom of Chalcis and was commanded to supervise the temple of Jerusalem. He showed the people that he followed the Jewish traditions.

Paul showed great kindness to this skeptical governor. He thanked Agrippa for giving him the chance to share his personal testimony.

Paul's speech was interrupted, so he made a personal call to Agrippa, "Do you believe?" (v. 27)

What God has done in our lives may cause a strong impact in others. We can show them what accepting Jesus and being redeemed is like, and we can lead them to surrender to Him.



“All who have tasted ‘the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come’ (Hebrews 6:5), have a work to do for those in their homes and among their neighbors. The gospel of salvation must be proclaimed to others. Every man who has felt the converting power of God becomes in a sense a missionary. There are friends to whom he can speak of the love of God. He can tell in the church what the Lord is to him, even a personal Saviour; and the testimony given in simplicity may do more good than the most eloquent discourse.”

E.G.W. (Counsels on Health, p. 32)