

Two stories, One truth

Being a witness is a delicate and great responsibility.

A witness stands on the side of the one they are supporting (prosecutor or defense)

They cannot speak against their position or else will be representing the adversary.

On a trial, witnesses speak from their experience according to their conscience, but the conscience can be wrong or deceitful.

WRONG WITNESSES STORY (Two stories, prosecutor and defense, both with witnesses)

In Christian witnessing, witnesses must only speak according to the instructions and experience of Jesus under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

1-SPEAK FAITH AND FACTS, AVOID A SUBJECTIVE ACCOUNT (Spies in Canaan)

When we witness of the gospel according to ourselves, we tint it with our mindset.

Moses: Numbers 13: 17-20, 25

THE TEN

Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."

"The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

JOSHUA AND CALEB

Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there." "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them."

"Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

The ten: (Numbers 13: 27-28, 31-33 / 14:4) We are not able. They are giants. We are grasshoppers. Let us return to Egypt. The land devours its inhabitants.

Joshua and Caleb: (Numbers 13: 27-28, 30 / 14:6-9) We are able to overcome. The Lord is with us. Do not fear them. Let us go at once. The land is exceedingly good.

End Result: The will of God delayed 40 years, thousands died without the blessing.

2-CENTER THE MESSAGE IN JESUS (Demonic and swine keepers)

Mark 5:14-16 / Luke 8:37 / Mark 5:18-20

Swine keepers: Focus on self. Speak from fear. Go on their own. Message of loss. All feared and rejected Jesus.

Demonic: Focus on Jesus. Speaks from the Spirit. Commissioned by Jesus. Message of hope. All marveled.

3-BE AN ACTIVE WITNESS, SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES (Woman at the well)

THE DISCIPLES

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar... Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ...His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"

THE WOMAN

The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word.

Jn 4:5, 8, 27, 31-33 Disciples went to the city, left Jesus behind to satisfy their immediate material needs, spent time buying, returned as they went. Who did they bring to Jesus? No witnessing. Had nothing to fear but did not witness. Fed themselves with regular bread.

Jn 4:19, 25-26, 28-30, 39-42 Woman comes from the city, finds Jesus, forgets about material needs (leaves waterpot), ignores her fear, witnesses to the city, comes back with a crowd, leads them to Jesus. Seeing Him even more believe. Fed a multitude with the Bread of Life.

LEAD THEM TO CHRIST, HE WILL COMPLETE THE MISSION

Afraid to talk?

Matthew 9:19-20 do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

There was only one excuse to be a witness of Jesus and remain silent; The wise men from the East.

Closing verses

Psalm 71: 17-18

1 John 1:1-3