

Growth from Witnessing

Matt. 5:13-16

Luke 10:1-24

Acts 4:13-21

G.T. - Acts 4:20

C. Truth. The Xian feels an urgent necessity to witness to his experience with X, no matter what the results.

Goal: to learn the qualities required of witnesses, and by self-examination to find where they need to grow in the qualities that make Christians good witnesses -

Create a Learning Situation

Define word "witness" by describing what a witness does in each of the following situations:

- (1) a person who sees an automobile accident
- (2) a person who gives evidence in court
- (3) a person who swears that a signature is valid
- (4) a person who "stands up" with a couple being married.

Individual descriptions - agreement that in each case a witness (1) has seen something for himself
(2) is able to testify to what he has seen -

There is no real difference between these witnesses & the Xian witness

He too must have experienced something for himself & be able to testify regarding it.

Ask class to state briefly what qualities they believe are necessary for a Xian to be such a witness. (Responses)

Bible study for clear picture of Xian witnessing

Divide into 2 groups: to study this ^{vv.} (brief)

① - Look at it from viewpoint of the Sanhedrin (the "Council").

1. What did they think of these witnesses?

✓ boldness & conviction of apostles

unlearned & ignorant men.

✓ knew they had been with Jesus

✓ the reality of the miracle - truthful -

v.v.
13-14
16-18

2. What was the result in their lives?

indecision as to what to do

✓ stubbornness of the Sanhedrin.

② - Look at the situation from the viewpoint of one of the throng of Jews who had come to watch the trial. ^{v.v.} 13-14
18-21

1. What would he think of these witnesses?

Same as above (1.)

also, admired their earnestness & sincerity

" " " enthusiasm

life? - belief in X -

Summarize ✓ (over).

a part of Scriptural background will give some more qualities & results of witnessing. Matt. 5:13-16.

Boldness Peter showed was not of himself but result of H.S. within - exalted name of J. above every name.

A witness must be convicted before he can convince others. Must know it is real - Paul: "I know whom I have believed ..." - 2 Tim. 1:12b.

The most important tense in the Christian experience is the present tense. God's primary concern is neither what a person has been in past nor what he intends to be in the future, but what he is in the process of becoming now. "God is a very present help," and until He is a present reality He will not be a future hope.

If a person can have salvation + not know it, he can lose it + not miss it. Read v. 20.

Living X must be central. "Knowledge about" X is no substitute for "experience of" X.

Why our witnessing fails (or don't witness) - we lack in our example of living in experience of X - we live our lives - self dictates - rather than letting X live thru us - His life - (fruit of H.S. Gal. 5:22-23.)

Matt. 5:13-16.

Ask for qualities of salt & light & their effects on both good & evil.

Salt & light have the purpose of revealing & preserving.

Salt preserves the good & overcomes the decay.
Light reveals the good & exposes the evil.
(In spite of shortcomings of many some are still salt & light)

Results: Witnessing may have one of two effects:

1. It may cause people to come to X & believe
or.
2. ~~It~~ it may cause them to be confirmed in their refusal to believe (just as was seen in story from Acts)

In light of these 2 results what quality is needed in witnesses? (Faithfulness regardless of results)

Who are to be witnesses for X? (all xians are supposed to - maybe some practical doubt).

Ask why they feel such doubt. (feelings of being unequal to such a task)

Examine own lives to see if we have these qualities of witnesses: personal experience, boldness, conviction, faithfulness

Each Examine own life to see what is lacking.

Is it a basic personal experience with X?

Lk. 10:20b

Is it a lack of conviction?

Is it a desire to see results rather than to
be faithful?

Such questions should be made part of each
one's meditations during your personal devotions
in the week to come -

Stay in "upward"