

Text: I Peter 2:9

Title: “Tell Your Story”

INTRODUCTION

Open your Bibles with me to I Peter 2. In this portion of God’s Word, the apostle Peter is reminding some believers about who they are and how they should act as God’s people. He talks about the fact that Jesus Christ is to be the very foundation of their lives, and when He is Christ will be precious to them. There are people who disobey, reject and stumble over Christ, however, that is not so for followers of Christ. Peter says...

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

There’s something here in this verse about...

1. OUR IDENTITY

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God ... called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Just look at what it says about Christ-followers:

- Chosen – You didn’t just find your way to God. He elected you to be His.
- Royal – There is a nobility about who we are.
- Holy - Anything that is used by God and for God must be holy. We have been set apart for God, and our bodies, minds and souls are to be used for His purposes.
- Belonging to God – Your translation may say, “a peculiar people.” The word actually means “acquired.” We have been sought by God and acquired by God. We belong to Him.
- Called out of darkness – I couldn’t help but think about Jesus’ friend Lazarus, who died one day. Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days when Jesus arrived. Jesus had them remove the stone over the grave, and then He called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” And Lazarus came out of the darkness of death and into the light of life. That’s happens to us when we are saved. Jesus calls us and draws us out of the darkness to walk in His wonderful light.

That’s our identity. Then there’s also something here about...

2. OUR ACTIVITY

1 Peter 2:9 - That you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

If we only understood what an amazing thing has happened to us when we are called and chosen and saved by God, we could not help but declare His praises. Our purpose, in light of our identity, is to announce to the world the excellencies and glory of our God. As we go about our lives every day we are to look for opportunities to declare to others what God has done for us in His Son Jesus Christ.

But don't expect to be applauded by the world for this. Remember that those who reject Christ stumble over him. And they will have a problem with us as well.

ILLUSTRATION – Even if you're not a fan of professional football you may have heard about the controversy that is swirling around Tim Tebow, the quarterback for the Denver Broncos. Tebow was an outstanding college quarterback when he won the Heisman Trophy, not once, but twice while playing for the University of Florida. But the thing that has become the most notable thing about Tim Tebow is his faith. He is one of the most outspoken Christians in professional sports. He is very vocal about his commitment to Christ, and uses his football notoriety as a platform to tell others about Christ.

But as you can imagine, not everyone is as excited about Tebow's faith as Tim is. A little over a month ago Jake Plummer, one of the Tebow's predecessors as quarterback of the Broncos, took a shot at Tebow in a radio interview. Plummer said that Tim Tebow should quit talking about Christ in his interviews, and just stick to football.

In an ESPN interview Tebow answered: "If you're married, and you have a wife, and you really love your wife, is it good enough to only say to your wife 'I love her' the day you get married? Or should you tell her every single day when you wake up and every opportunity? And that's how I feel about my relationship with Jesus Christ is that it is the most important thing in my life. So any time I get an opportunity to tell him that I love him or given an opportunity to shout him out on national TV, I'm gonna take that opportunity. And so I look at it as a relationship that I have with him that I want to give him the honor and glory anytime I have the opportunity. And then right after I give him the honor and glory, I always try to give my teammates the honor and glory ... I feel like anytime I get the opportunity to give the Lord some praise, he is due for it."

As believers we don't all have the high-profile platform that Tim Tebow has, but that doesn't excuse us from the command to declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful life.

I have some friends who are coming to show you how they tell their story, telling their favorite Scripture passage and song.

Testimonies: Bernie Hargis (coordinates our programming and communications), Chad Brantley (leads the Contemporary Adults pastoral team, as well as recreation and men's ministry), Nettie Ramsey (directs our women's ministries), Tim Whitney (our new college minister) and Kirk Wooldridge (leads our discipleship and young adult ministries).

CONCLUSION

Do you have a story to tell? Can you point to the time when as a child, student or adult, you put your trust in Christ. Do you have a story? If you do, you must remember that your story is His story. Give Him the glory every day that you live.