SET FREE - Galatians

Power of a Testimony (1:11-24)

***Paul defends himself by way of his testimony…***

*I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation*

*from Jesus Christ.* ***(Gal. 1:11-12)***

* ***The Gospel: Men didn’t make it up, God brought it down –*** *“I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.* ***(Acts 26:16)***

***Paul without Jesus – “Legalism: I’ll reach God”…***

* ***Religious tenacity (I fight the right causes) –*** *“For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.”* ***(v. 13)***
* ***Religious superiority (I follow the right rules) –*** *“I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.”* ***(v. 14)***

*If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eight day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.* ***(Phil. 3:4-6)***

🔍***Build your story: How did I “try” to reach God?***

***Paul meets Jesus – “Grace: God reaches me”…***

*But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.* ***(vv. 15-17)***

* ***God calls –*** *“Brothers, think of what you were when you were called.”* ***(1 Cor. 1:26)***
* ***God reveals –*** *“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world.”* ***(John 17:6)***

🔍***Build your story: How did God “call” me? How was Jesus revealed to me?***

***Paul with Jesus – “Ministry: God uses me to reach others”…***

*Later I went Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” And they praised God because of me.* ***(vv. 21-24)***

🔍***Build your story: How is Jesus changing me and using me to change others?***