

**MESSAGE:** SHARING MY STORY // 8.25.19

**SPEAKER:** Al Schaap

### GETTING STARTED

1. If you were called to be a witness to something, how well do you think you could recall what happened? What makes a memory memorable?
2. When you get good news, who is the first person you want to share it with and why?
3. Is there anything in this week's message that caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. What is it about a good story or opportunity that makes us eager to share it with others? Would you say that you generally show that same eagerness when sharing about Jesus? Why or why not?
2. Read Luke 5:27-32 and John 1:35-46. Why were these new disciples eager to share what they had found?
3. Read John 9 again, noticing how John contrasts light/seeing with being blind/not seeing. What do you see about seeing/not-seeing here?
4. What was it about this man's story that people could not deny?
5. Often people are afraid to share their stories because of fear of rejection. How does this once-blind man show us the way?
6. What would you say is undeniable about your story?
7. On a scale from 1 - 10, how excited are you about your story? What can you do to gain/regain a better perspective and excitement about what Jesus has done/is doing in your life?

### TAKE AWAY

1. Are you staying ready to share the hope God is giving you?
2. What friends/relatives/students/fellow workers could you introduce to Jesus? How could you do that?
3. How can people be praying for you this week?

RightNow Media Resources (see bulletin for sign up instructions)

- The Value of Our Story (Customizable Training) - Jeremy Cowart
- Your Struggle, God's Story (2015 IF Gathering) - Rebekah Lyons

Video messages available online at [gatewaymerced.org/messages](http://gatewaymerced.org/messages)

### John 9 -

**Three things to do with the story God is writing in my life:**

**1. When someone asks what God's been doing... \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_ of how God is changing your story!

*"One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"*

→ **No one can rightly argue with what God has done in your life.**

→ **Your story is interesting...many will want to hear it.**

**2. \_\_\_\_\_ for times when you can share even more of your story.**  
*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. (1 Peter 3:15)*

★ **Be prepared \_\_\_\_\_...be where God wants you to be.**

★ **Be prepared \_\_\_\_\_...watching & listening for God to show you whom to get alongside as He guides you thru your day.**

People don't ask questions about spiritual matters unless God is at work in their lives. When you see someone seeking God or asking questions about Christianity, you are witnessing God at work. ("Experiencing God...", Blackaby & King)

★ **Be especially aware when a person is in times of:**

- Tension
- Transition
- Trouble

★ **Be prepared \_\_\_\_\_...ready to share my faith story.**

## **My Story**

### **1. My life *before* Christ**

Possible items: where I was spiritually before receiving Jesus, how that affected thoughts about God/attitudes/feelings/relationships, what got me thinking about God

### **2. How I met Christ**

Possible items: how I came to understand what He has done for me, when I really believed in Him for myself, what I did to invite Him to be in & take over my life

### **3. My life *with* Christ**

Possible items: the on-going story of how God has been changing me since He took over, some ways I now have hope in Christ, things He's been doing currently in me

4. **Any other comments you feel God prompting you to make** in this particular situation that might relate your story to the person with whom He has you speaking

3. \_\_\_\_\_ others to \_\_\_\_\_ in your story. (It could change theirs!)

I'll prayerfully invite \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ to church/group/etc. to take a look at Jesus.

Especially helpful resource: "the difference maker – Using Your Everyday Life for Eternal Impact" – Nelson Searcy with Jennifer Dykes Henson

### **Additional Notes:**

Key: just tell them what you know; Prepare, physically, spiritually, intellectually; Invite, join you