

Readings

Scripture

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- 2 Corinthians 5:20 (English Standard Version)

Reflection

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

- Romans 8:1 (English Standard Version)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (English Standard Version)

¹ You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

- 2 Timothy 2:1-2 (English Standard Version)

²⁰ "...for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

- Acts 4:20 (English Standard Version)

¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

- 1 Peter 3:15 (English Standard Version)

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- Romans 10:14-17 (English Standard Version)

¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. ¹² And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. ¹³ And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

- Job 2:11-13 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

Sharing the Story

2 Corinthians 5:20

The Rooted Experience

Matt Mobley

God has written Himself into the story (Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

You believe because someone shared this story with you (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

Now, we are called to share this story with others (Acts 4:20)

- With humility (1 Peter 3:15)
- With words (Romans 10:14-17)
- With listening (Job 2:11-13)

Reflection Questions (excerpted from the Rooted Experience, used with permission)

- Who are three people in your life that don't know and trust the love of Jesus? Do they know of your faith in Jesus?
- How, if at all, does it help you to think about telling God's story as part of your own story?
- If possible, contact those the Holy Spirit called to tell you the story of Jesus. Thank them for allowing themselves to be used by God, who wrote your salvation story. If contacting them is not possible, write a prayer of thanks to God for them.
- In the coming weeks how might you connect with one person, one family, and one community showing and sharing Christ's love and message?
- What excuses have you used for not sharing God's story? What can you learn and put to use from reading about the excuses of Moses in Exodus?
- Read Job 2:11-13. Think about a time when you did not listen when you should have. Why didn't you listen in that situation?
- Write out your faith story. If you have a *Before Jesus* and *After Jesus* story, write from that perspective. You don't have to write in full sentences, but taking the time to write out your own faith-in-Jesus story will help you as you share His story within your story with others.