

May My Life Be a Living Testimony...(part 1)

- **Bible verse: John 13:34-35 (NIV '84)**
 - A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
- **Small Group Sharing:**
 - Think about a person whom look up to. What is it about that person that you have great respect for him/her? If you cannot think of a person, think of someone in history whom is well-respected and why you think that person deserved that level of respect (MLK, Abe Lincoln, Rosa Parks, etc.)
 - Imagine the same person, you consider well-respected, living their life in a contradicting manner. Share any thoughts you may have about that person.

The way we live our lives matter; they are not 2-D films- in fact it's 4-D, High Definition. Whether you know it or not, people are observing what we say and how we act; our lives are a testimony. Each day we wake up is another opportunity to be a living testimony, to reciprocate Jesus. In the Bible, Jesus clearly told his disciples they must love others because He loved them. Jesus is the living reflection and testimony of His Father: the perfect, unblemished Son who always fulfilled his Father's will, paid the ultimate sacrifice on the cross, and finally resurrected three days later.

Tim Reilly, a volunteer pastor at Trinity Church of Sunnyvale and evangelistic speaker who began an equipping ministry called "Compelled+", spoke at my church adult conference; during one sermon, he mentions three groups of people we should share our faith with; he suggests the following ways to share with these groups of people:

1. Our "Jerusalem" . people closest to us; these are the people who watch (or has been watching) our lives closely. They are the ones that see our lives in 4D and with surround sound. Our testimony is the things we say and how we act.
2. Our "Judah" . people we know, but aren't close to. To share our faith with these people, start by asking questions you want them to ask you. For instance, we could ask, "What is your church background?" "What do you think Christianity is about?"
3. "Our Samaria" + "Ends of the Earth" . people around us; these could be our neighbors, the baristas and/or shop keepers in the cafes, shops, coffee shops we regularly patron: use our passion, for Jesus, as a testimony; that will naturally show and people will wonder.

What we say, what we do, and how we act matters. Do not let our lives be an excuse for anyone not to follow Jesus.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders, make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversations be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.+. Colossians 4: 1-6 (NIV '84)