

Are You Being a Good Witness?

It amazes me that Christ entrusted His reconciling work in the world to witnesses like you and me. After Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to his disciples over a forty-day period before his ascension. During that time Jesus taught them about the kingdom of God. He left them with this final instruction: "Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit . . ." Then he gives them a promise and a purpose: "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" Jesus was entrusting everything He had lived and died for to these disciples and those followers of His yet-to-be-born. (THAT US) Our assignment is to be His witnesses. That is Christ's plan for reconciling the world unto himself. Witnesses! People who have experienced Christ in their own lives and are willing to share that experience with others. And the question we must ask ourselves is, are we good witnesses? Brothers and sisters in Christ we represent Christ to the world!

We're supposed to be His witnesses, making certain that His message is communicated in this turbulent world. Are you a good witness for Jesus? First, A Good Witness Needs to Be CREDIBLE! Credibility is everything in today's society! We're tired of people who say one thing and do something else. We **MUST** be authentic. A good witness needs, first of all, to be credible. Second, A Good Witness Needs to Be CARING! "*No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care.*" Do your neighbors know that you genuinely care about them? How about your friends, the people at work, your own family members? To witness for Christ you must be credible, you must be caring. Third, A Good Witness Needs to Be COMMITTED! A genuine credible and caring Christian is committed to being a witness for Christ in **ALL** they Do! Are you fully committed to being Christ's witnesses to others? Our personal relationship with Jesus is personal but it is not private. According to the New Testament, if we are followers of Christ, then we are witnesses. You are either saved witnesses for Christ or witnesses against Christ and are lost in sin. We kid ourselves if we think we can hide our light under a bushel without it eventually going out altogether. A Christian Chinese woman named Su Xueling was facing opposition from the Chinese government for her telling others about Christ through her business. Su was born into a communist family. She knew nothing of Christ until her husband was dying of cancer when she was in her 30s and a nurse suggested that she might find solace in Christianity. Struggling with grief and debt while trying to make a living selling noodles door to door, this Chinese woman visited a church. One thing led to another, and Su became a Christian. Through friends, she began to raise money for a noodle factory. When she opened it, she named her business Gospel Foodstuffs, Ltd., and printed "Gospel Noodles" boldly on the packages. Her business prospered, and a friend challenged her to donate money to start a seminary. The seminary prospered and grew until it was serving 200 students. Refusing to bend to a law forbidding evangelizing, the seminary even taught Arabic in the hope of sending missionaries to the Middle East. Remember this was in communist China. Finally, the government shut down the school as well as Su's noodle business. Later, the government backed down, in part because Su was so popular that they couldn't afford to treat her as roughly as they might an unknown believer. You can't keep a good woman down. The Christian faith is growing by leaps and bounds in China and other persecuted regions of the world today because of committed witnesses like Su. You and I do not yet face the same challenges as these witnesses, but Christ does expect the same level of commitment. So, how good a witness are you? It's really a simple assignment if you choose to accept it. We are to live credibly as a disciple of Christ, being a person who genuinely cares and is proactive about it living boldly, confidently, and creatively, so that the world will know that you are a follower of Jesus Christ! Jesus Calls you to, "Be His witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Will You? Are YOU? Are You Being a Good Witness?