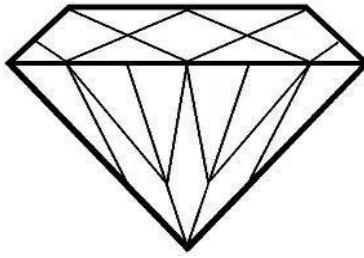


What's Your Story?



Scripture Verses: 1 Peter 3:15, Acts 26

Mark Beeson recently did a sermon where he compared God's nature to a diamond. A diamond's brilliance changes as we see it's many different facets. He used this as an analogy for God's nature, and said that we can more deeply understand and appreciate the beauty of God's nature by seeing as many different facets of it as we can. My perspective of God's nature may be different than yours. Mark used the four gospel writers as an example of 4 people who were all telling Christ's story, but whose perspectives were all ultimately unique. That's what I'd like us to do this morning...share our different viewpoints in an effort for us all to more deeply understand God's nature and admire His beauty.

In Acts 26 (Also Acts 22), we basically read Paul's "story". Like most testimonies, Paul's included three basic parts: 1) His life before Christ 2) How he came to know Christ , & 3) his life after Christ.

PART 1: What was your life like before you received Christ?

1. In Acts 26:1-5, what do we learn of Paul's early manner in life?
 - a) How does this compare to yours?
 - What things were most important to you before?
 - What basic need were you attempting to fulfill?
 - How did you try to satisfy that need?
2. What was Paul's confidence and hope in his early life?
 - a) What was your hope and confidence before you came to know Christ?

PART 2: How/When did you receive Christ?

3. What were the "goads" that Jesus referred to in Acts 26:14?
 - a) What were some of the "goads" that God used in your life to wake you up to your need for salvation?
4. When did you first hear the message of Christ and what was your initial reaction?
5. When did you first begin to feel positive toward the gospel and why do you think this happened?
6. Why did you make the decision to trust Christ and how did you specifically do that?

PART 3: What has life been like after having received Christ?

7. How did Christ specifically satisfy the basic need you stated above?
8. What changes have occurred in your life as a result?
9. Read Acts 26:24. Did you have a Festus in your life after you received Christ?
10. How do you know Christ is active in your life?
11. Who in your life might benefit from hearing your story of God's presence in your life?
 - a) What do you think might be the most effective way to let them hear your story?
12. When you look at the facets of Jesus' life, what shines most brightly to you?
13. Describe a time where you experienced one of these facets in a very real, very personal, way.
14. How different would your image of God be if you only had your own viewpoint to use for perspective?
15. What do you think was Paul's objective in this speech in Acts 26?
Bonus question: What was the outcome of Paul's speech?