

Tell the Story: Sent Ones

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – September 18, 2011

Acts 4:8-20 (Peter and John heal a crippled man)

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." ¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵ So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶ "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name." ¹⁸ Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. ²⁰ For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Apostle means "sent one"

Official Mission of United Methodist Church:

"to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

1. GOD SENDS SIMPLE, WILLING PEOPLE TO TELL THE STORY

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

2. A CHANGED LIFE CONFIRMS THE STORY

¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵ So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶ "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it.

3. YOUR CHANGED LIFE IS THE STORY

¹⁰ ... this man stands before you healed.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ But Peter and John replied, "... we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

John 9:25

"Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT EQUIPS YOU TO TELL THE STORY

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: