

Acts 22:12-15

To See and to Tell

October 31, 2011

Maple Grove UMC

When we become members of the church we pledge to participate in its ministries by our prayers, presence, gifts and service. And in 2008 General Conference added one more: to participate by our witness. Now that word—witness—makes a lot of Methodists uneasy. We think someone's trying to turn us into Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses, going door to door with little magazines. But that's not what witness means.

I mean, what is a witness, really? A witness is someone who has seen something and tells about it. That's all it means to witness—to see and to tell. It's simple.

Simple, but of course, not easy. So often we go through life not seeing, not really seeing what's right in front of us. We fail to see how precious our families are day by day. We see but fail to notice the beauty of leaves and sunsets. We take for granted the privilege of prayer, the relief of forgiveness. In the reading today from Acts, the apostle Paul was blind, literally and symbolically. What he needed was to see again, to see what really matters in life; he needed to have the scales removed from his eyes. And so do we.

And once you see, all that remains is to tell. If you see a great movie or eat at a wonderful new restaurant, what do you do? You tell people. So if you see how much you love and appreciate your spouse, how can you not tell them? If you see how precious your children are, how can you not tell them how proud you are? If you see your church family supporting and caring for you, how can you not tell your friends? And if you see the mercy and love of Christ, how can you not tell others that Jesus is the light in your darkness?

We pledge to participate in the ministries of the church by our witness--to see and to tell. Lord, open my eyes that I may see, open my mouth that I may tell. Open my eyes, open my mouth, Spirit divine!

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