Witness

Acts 1:8

Intro. A. Sometimes we speak when should have kept mouth shut.
1. In anger, humor in poor taste, in ignorance, at wrong place.
2. Never fully recover from regret.
B. Sometime we are silent when should have spoken.
1. Lie takes time; innocent suffer; someone misinterpreted; wrong vote; principles crushed underfoot.
2. Silence is denial, betrayal. Let that moment pass; quench spirit, and talk rest of life never make up for it.
C. Something must be said. Be silent and stones will cry out.
1. Many wish you had never seen it, been present, known; but no choice; must speak.
2. Hamlet - "Oh, wretched spite."
D. Christ has come; Gods forgiving + redeeming love is toward everyone. This must be said.
E. Many words in N.T. describing how it said - Proclaim, preach, say, tell, announce, prophecy; but none so central, so powerful as witness.

I Witnessing - Its Power.
A. Comes out of real life.
1. In classroom, dry and tasteless, logic seems unreal. Vanishes in fresh air of reality.
2. At church function, everyone says what ought to say.
3. In worship, candlelight + organ support poor sermon. Fake.
4. But on no. 6 green, on train, in store, on plane, thru mail.
B. Carries warmth of personal experience.
1. Gods message not fully carried on paper, stone, or in sky.
2. But in personality. Heb 1:1-3.
C. Enforced by truth of first hand knowledge.

1. Not "the way I heard it was".
2. But certification of own experience.
   a. Man born blind.
   b. 7 sons of Sceva.

D. Made impressive by recognition of personal responsibility.
   1. witnessed exit 1st stone.
   2. what converted Phil. jailer?

Olympic team embarrassed U.S.

II Why, Then, So Little Witnessing?

A. Plenty of apologies for church; few witnesses.

B. Several Reasons

1. Faithless in little waiting for big chance to be faithful in riches.
2. Nothing to say. Some with bow, no arrows. Enthusiasm but no knowledge.
3. Or knowledge, no zeal. Tragic trade students make often.
4. Or perhaps ashamed of message. Lack courage to carry lamp amid bright lights of modern culture.
5. Just plain cowards. Find self lured into conversation, taking stand denied very certainties of your life; too much a coward to stop it.

Haven't outgrown ch. "I'd forget thee..."

Camel. A. Jesus sometimes said something ridiculous to accent his point.

1. Camel and needle's eye. Impossible.
2. Lamp under a bushel. Ridiculous. Nobody do that!

B. You shall be my witnesses!

1. Repent going around Bad answers prayer; forgives sin; gives purpose, meaning; welcomes the wayward.
2. Can anyone testify this true?