

# Matrix Moments

Christian Poetry, Media & Sermons

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# Matrix Moments

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Some things stick with you..... I'll tell a story of a different 1 on 1 to kick us off tonight.

Tell about the boy scout on way to Scouts and the beating up. Sense of shame when the old guy interrupted. He could have passed by, but he didn't why not.. outrage, love, compassion, a christian called by God.. I don't know.. but he did something ... one person makes a difference.



Story of vision of Activate... Acts chapter 1 v 8 activate  
Also the story of what it means to be a witness. Let's look at the passage from verse 6.

## ACT I V 8

6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But 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."

Lord, are you ... they were looking for a big kingdom, a revolution for Israel, but God had even bigger plans than this.

He said... don't get hung up about the future, but you are to get power from the Father, and you will be my witnesses

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Their response was to stand there staring at the sky.. must have been for a while cuase it seems a couple of angels turn up to hurry them on... but with a reminder that Christ will return.

They went back to their friends and told them all this. They waited and the power of God came on them... so powerfully that the day it happened they went out on the streets and 3,000 were added to their number..... funny that they didn't keep going though and it wasn't until some persecution later that they really did get out to the ends of the earth.

WE ARE ALL WITNESSES.



Believe at [nikebasketball.com](http://nikebasketball.com)

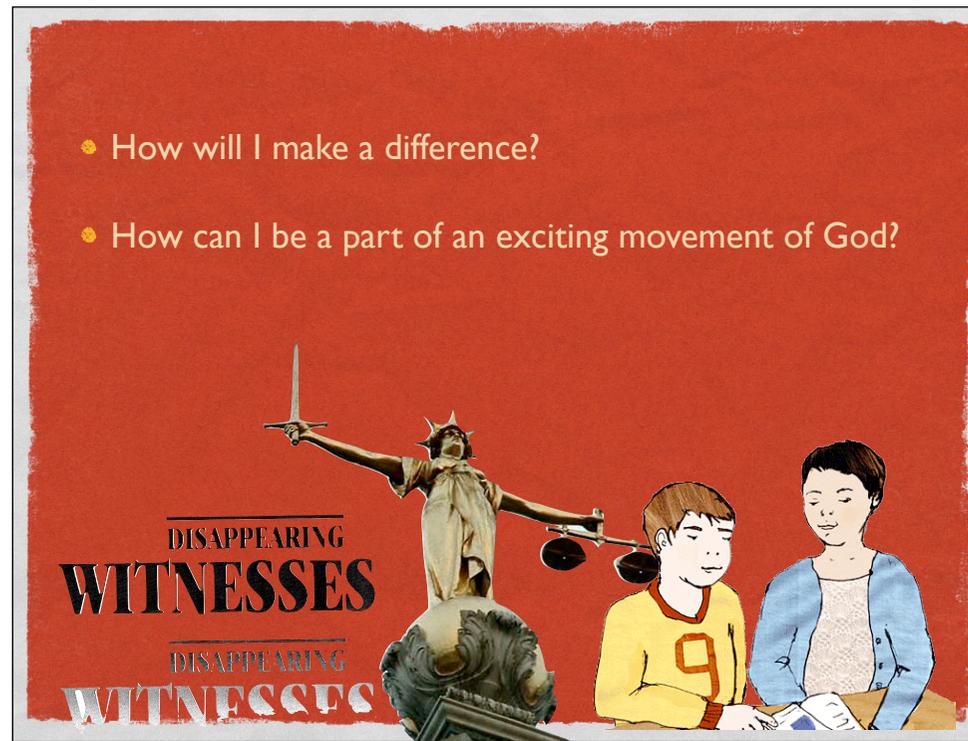




- A witness is honest
- A witness sees, hears and experiences and communicates Truth from their life.

Story about me.... parents, youth leaders, Easter Camps, radio- Tom Skinner (tell the story again), small group at Spreydon, and many more.. all part of a chain of witnesses to me of Christ's love...

I have a choice to respond to this love, or to ignore or joke its realness away. To do this is to miss out on the best for my life, best experience of love, best fun, best pain, best struggle, best purpose.



Accept that you may need to wait on the power of the Spirit (talk to God daily, read the Word), but at the same time don't just stare at the sky waiting for something that you know is gone... get God's timing by asking for His power. Ask for this power and realise that He has given you a command to go out and 'be' a witness. When you put your faith on the line then you experience the movement of your life over the line.

Let's follow the story of one of the disciples of Christ.... garden.... It is the story of Easter through the eyes of a witness

66While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. 67When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

"You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said.

68But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.[g]

69When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." 70Again he denied it.

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."

71He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."

72 Immediately the rooster crowed the second time.[h] Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice[i] you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

11Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus Reinstates Peter

15When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

16Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. 18 I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

- God knows our past... he chooses us - chooses us!
- It is His love, through and through for us
- We can tell the story of His love in our lives - sharing the message keeps us straight!



God's love is amazing.. when it life is boiled down, we really all want to know a deep and satisfying love... a love that loves us knowing exactly who we are, in spite of who we are - this is the love of Easter... with this love motivating , with this story to tell need to share....  
Sharing the message keeps us straight.

People want to hear. There is a spiritual hunger in our society but it tends to get answered with fast food... quickest way to death... instant entertainment, what's in it for me? When the find out about the real me, they will never go hungry again... Christ said, "I am the bread".. that knowing him will make you satisfied! In sharing this message we help keep ourselves on the cutting edge.

Isaiah 43:10-12

You are my witnesses, says the LORD,  
and my servant whom I have chosen,  
so that you may know and believe me  
and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,  
nor shall there be any after me.

I, I am the LORD,

and besides me there is no savior.

I declared and saved and proclaimed,  
when there was no strange god among you;  
and you are my witnesses, says the LORD.

How do we know God's love is steadfast? - By looking at the story of God's people. How do we know God keeps his promises? - By looking at his people. How does the world hear about God's salvation? - By hearing the testimony of God's people. Much of the testimony of God's people comes to us from the written pages of scripture. But what makes that testimony alive? It is the way in which written words are confirmed over and over again in the lives of God's people here and now. For better or worse, God has made his people vessels of the message of his love, ambassadors of his kingdom, lights on a hill, salt in society. God has made his people his witnesses.

- What is your next step this Easter?



Is it yourself? What better time to give Christ that stuff in your life that you know only he can deal with, make sense of, but you hesitate to do it..... become a witness yourself, to the power of God tonight.

Story of the lifeguards.. 1985 New Orleans In September 1985 a celebration was being held at a New Orleans municipal pool.

The party was being held to celebrate the first summer in memory without a drowning at any New Orleans city pool.

In honor of the occasion, two hundred people gathered, including one hundred certified lifeguards.

As the party was breaking up and the four lifeguards on duty began to clear the pool, they found a fully dressed body in the deep end.

Jerome Moody was 31 years old.

They tried to revive him, but it was too late.

He had drowned surrounded by lifeguards celebrating their successful season.

How many visitors and strangers are among us drowning in loneliness, hurt, and doubt, while we, who could help them, don't realize it.

We Christians have reason to celebrate, but our mission, as the old hymn says, is to "rescue the perishing."

Or if you're further on the journey with Christ, ask God to place someone on your heart and patiently listen for the moments to be real with them, to love them. What is bigger than 4200 teenagers having massive fun all Easter... if you're not going to camp.. spend time in Easter looking for a chance to witness for Christ.