



DAVE EMIGH'S TESTIMONY

read about our new Marriage and Family Pastor

I grew up in a wonderful Christian home where I accepted Jesus as my Savior at the age of 5. During my childhood I was very active in our church. If there was something going on at church I was there. I had a great group of older guys to disciple me. One of my highlights was being baptized by one of them during a youth trip to Colorado where I rededicated my life to Christ.

As I got into my later teen year's sin began to entice me. My mentors had moved on and I felt alone. I did not lose my faith by I told God, "I could take it from here." So I thought. As you can imagine I spent time chasing the desires of my "flesh" while my heart was breaking inside for the Lord. This lifestyle continued on into college where my focus was on how I could have a good time with women and partying. I was living the college dream so I thought. All the while God was waiting for me to come on home. But I was blinded by my desires and had all but forgotten about what Jesus had done for me. I had my "get out of hell free card" and thought that was all I needed. The next season of my life would be forever changed by one decision that would affect not only my life but many others for years to come.

After my junior year in college I was involved in a horrific car crash involving alcohol where 3 people died, including my best friend: Amie. I woke up in a hospital bed handcuffed to the side rails with a sheriff sitting next to me. The first words out of his mouth were, "Son you have just killed three people." Words that shattered me to my core and would define the next season of my life. There is much to this story that at some time I hope to share with you but for now I will keep it brief. Because of one selfish decision that night I tragically brought a tsunami into the lives of four families. The devastation was immense.

But it was amazing that in the middle of the catastrophic disaster God sat at my side and said, "Dave I am here, I will walk with you, there will be healing, there will be forgiveness, I will carry you, I am your Lord and Savior, come home to me." The next 11 yrs. of my life would be filled with times of pain, healing, anger, joy, loss, new birth, suicide, life, prison, freedom, forgiveness and hope. There are numerous stories of where God showed up in only the way He knows how and the blessings that came out of calamity for His glory.

I am here today because my Lord and Savior was with me at every twist and turn. If it would not have been for God calling out to me in my brokenness and my renewed desire to follow His will and not my own, I would not be here today. He was ever present and shaped the man that I am today because of His love, mercy, and overflowing grace for me. Through all of the trials I trusted God to lead my life and was able to see how God could take something man had desired for evil and turn it into good for His glory. I now believe that Jesus is not only my Savior but Lord and King.

My desire today is to serve God and others in all that I do. God has redeemed me from myself and given me a message to share just like you. It is a story of redemption and hope that can only be found in Jesus. He is the way, truth, and the life. My life is living proof that our decisions don't define us, but our identity rests in WHOM we serve.

I am no longer lost but am found in Christ. Through Christ I have been blessed with a new life, amazing wife, spectacular kids, and a purpose that lives in Him. I believe that people desire hope and restoration from this broken world. That they are searching for the truth. That we are called to walk with them in their brokenness and to show them Jesus is the only way, truth and life through kindness, gentleness and compassion. That we are to give what we have been given. To live an authentic life that invites others to our table as we journey together in our understanding and transformation that God's amazing grace provides.