

Sea Stories

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From time to time, I have the opportunity to sit around with some “Old Salts” and tell sea stories. These are often amusing and occasionally true stories from earlier on in our careers. One person will tell a story and it will remind another of another story and before you know it, a couple of hours have passed and we have had a very enjoyable and entertaining time.

Normally the purpose of telling sea stories is to simply remember the past and share a common bond. Historically, they would be told to amaze and impress landlubbers and entertain them with our wild exploits and adventures. But ideally, these should be told in the company of the younger members of the military. In doing this, we don’t just sit around “spinning yarns,” but in a sense, we are passing on to them a part of our history, and thus, a part of their heritage.

It is important to continue to recount to our younger people the things from our past so that they will have a greater appreciation of who they are and from whence they came. If they have a clear understanding of past events, they can more readily appreciate the present situation. But also, in sharing ourselves with them, we bring them into our family of trust. We are telling them in essence, “You are one of us, now. Here is a part of me. Treasure it.”

The telling of our stories goes back as far as man himself. Contrary to popular opinion, the meaning of the word *history* is not a contraction of the words *his story*, although it is easy to understand why many would think that. Rather, it is from the Greek word, *history*, which means “learned man.” It gives credibility to the old saying that those who fail to learn from the past are destined to repeat it. And if we are going to learn from the past, we have to tell our stories of where we have been and what we have done.

It makes me feel good when I hear young people tell the stories of what happened to someone in their family in generations past. It gives me comfort to know that the individual is well grounded in their own history and heritage. In fact, the reason we celebrate the various cultural celebrations throughout the year to encourage us to continue to hold on to our past while living in the present. In doing so, we can more effectively shape our future.

The Bible is more than just a recount of our past as Jewish or Christian people. It is intended to show us, not just where we came from, but through redemption, what can become of us, as well as warn us of coming judgment. It is important to study our Bibles so that we can have a clearer understanding of what brought us where we are and allow us to focus on where, with God’s help, where we are going.

Tell your story to those around you. Share yourself and share what God is doing in your life with those around you. In doing so, you can bring others in to your family.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.