

The Bible Has A Story - And It's Ours To Tell

Romans 1:16; Romans 10:13-17

Creation-Fall-**REDEMPTION**-Restoration

THE WRITER AND THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS INCLUDING THE BIBLE'S STORY IS THE CENTRAL FIGURE OF THE BIBLE'S STORY, PARTICULARLY REDEMPTION.

John 1:3 *All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.*

Colossians 1:16 *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*

Philippians 2:6 *he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Jesus entered the Bible Story not to be served, though no one deserved to be served more than He. He came for the joy set before Him with His face set like a flint to Jerusalem's cross in order to seek and save the lost (you and me) by making His life a ransom and destroying the works of the evil one through the crushing of His flesh. In so doing, He rescued us from Satan's dominion of darkness, placed us into His Kingdom and brought us to God.

As such we have received full and forever forgiveness, been given HIS abundant, eternal life, now restored to him and to one another. That's why the Son of God came, SO, if we are in Christ today or will be in Christ before we die, redemption is now OUR story! He came to give us Himself. He is our Living Hope.

And now we know "The REST of the Story!!! HE's the REST of the story!! He's the REST of OUR story! And now, His Story is Our Story to tell!

Jesus Laid Out His Purpose and Lived Out His Purpose

Luke 4:17-19,21 *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*

➤ **Jesus lived out this authority in full dependence on and relationship with His Father**

John 5:19 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise."*

John 12:49b *the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.*

Case Studies of Captivating Conversions

- **A Demonic Gentile, an Outcast Samaritan Woman, and a Despised Chief Tax Collector**

How could God possibly trust the most important news in the history of the world to the likes of us? But he does, filling us with the same power in which the Son of God was equipped.

1 Corinthians 1:21,27 *For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;*

1 Cor. 2:1-5 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Romans 1:16-17 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The Jesus Film Project Survey in early 2020 of 1600 multigenerational Christians, asked the question, "Why don't you share your faith?"

By far, the answer was fear. Fear in general, not feeling equipped, fear of rejection, fear of hostility, too shy, too busy, couldn't find the appropriate moment, didn't want to be pushy or offensive; feared losing friendships, being ostracized.

Some of us, though we wouldn't say it out loud, believe, "Sharing the gospel/Evangelism is not my 'gift'". Ok, It may not be your "office", but it is your burden and calling because it was and is our Lord's burden and calling. You may not be called to share the gospel like Billy Graham, but you are called to share the gospel like YOU. It may be through gifts of hospitality, generosity, and encouragement that God is opening doors to share. It could be through people you meet because of the interest you have in sports, interior design, investments, etc. Regardless, Jesus, THE Evangelist is going to use you like YOU. Be YOU with Christ in you. If Christ is your life, and He is; THE Evangelist, Christ Jesus Himself, is living, moving and having His being in and through you. To NOT evangelize is to NOT fully live.

- **Luke 19:10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
- **Philippians 1:21** For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

A Prophetic Word Spoken Over This Church in 2004

- October 2004, 10 months before Katrina, a prophesy spoken specifically to LCC.

“There are men and women and children swimming in darkness needing light. I will send you to them. You will show them. I am the Way, the Truth, the Life. Can you believe it? I have chosen you to go to the city where I planted you and make disciples all for Me. It's all about Me, know, it's all about Me.

I tell you that I am beginning a work in your children, and I am calling even the grandchildren that you may not yet have. And I tell you that even as you see them being refreshed and walking with Me, you, yourself will be revived and will begin walking and worshipping Me as you once did.

I believe the Lord would say to you as a church, that I am pleased with your heart for the lost. You have demonstrated a willingness to work hard to reach out to those who are lost and dying around you. But, I would have you know that a fresh wind of My Spirit is about to blow and I will fill your heart for evangelism with My Power. I will come upon you and use you with My gifts by My Spirit to reach out, and I will touch those that you had no idea I would be able to use you to touch. But it will require humility as you bow your heart before Me as you put your trust in Me as your confidence is no longer in what you can do, but in My Spirit.

I will blow a fresh wind of My power upon you, and you will see many, many come to faith because of the work that I will do through you.

Men who have once looked at what you are doing and they have said we want no part of it, will come to you and say what is it that you have what is it that you are hearing, we want to know more and they will be drawn together with you, and your hearts will be knitted and I will begin relationships within that city and there will be one voice rising up against the wave and tidal wave of sin.

I will give you a heart that is for the lost that you have not known and evangelism will pour forth.

They are in dark places. See them in those dark places, aching, longing, confused, giving themselves over to sin, seeking satisfaction, but never being satisfied. There are members of My bride in those dark places and they are waiting for you. I will bring them to you, and as you pray, I will lead you to them. I will use you as a city set on a hill to bring a bright light to see the gospel spread and to gather in those that I called by My name who are yet to be a part of this glorious bride that is building in the city of New Orleans.”

“Reckon then that to acquire soul-winning power, you will have to go through mental torment and soul distress. You must go into the fire if you are going to pull others out of it, and you will have to dive into the floods if you are going to draw others out of the water. You cannot work a fire escape without feeling the scorch of the conflagration, nor man a lifeboat without being covered with the waves.”

Charles H. Spurgeon, thoughts on soul winning

“If you want to develop a burden for the lost, go out and talk to the lost and find out how lost they really are. If you desire to have the crucial nature of evangelism branded on your heart, go out and do it, and you will become convinced of just how crucial it is. If you want to develop the conviction that Jesus does indeed change lives, take His life-changing message to others and see if this isn’t true.

Mark McCloskey, “Tell It Often, Tell It Well” (from Proclaim manuscript. P.23)

2 Cor. 5:14-15 *For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us **the ministry of reconciliation**; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are **ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

Romans 10:13-17 *For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

I, _____, declare and believe that the same Spirit of the Lord that was upon Jesus when He walked the earth is upon me, and that God has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Thank you, Jesus that I get the eternal privilege of participating in YOUR Great Commission!

Witness _____

Witness _____

The Ministry of the Word Involves Ministering the Word. Let's Go!

As a part of LCC, I am a part of that prophesy continuing to be fulfilled. So, who's God got His and His heart on that He wants to reach for Himself through me?

Write down the first three names that come to mind that you will begin to or continue to share the gospel with and as well, consider inviting to a church service, dinner, coffee, an event, and even the March 11 Alpha.
