

The Story

Chapter 2 – The Story of the Son

February 10th, 2021

1 The Drama Unfolds—The Meaninglessness of Life

- Read **Ecclesiastes 1:12-18**.
 - In our rebellion, we lost more than we realize.
 - Vanity = vapor or mere breath

- The “Fear of Death” has taken hold.
 - **Hebrews 2:14-15 (ESV) — 14** Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

- The Disease of Death Spread (The Power of Sin)
 - **1 Corinthians 15:56-57 (ESV) — 56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

 - **Romans 5:12 (ESV) — 12** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

- God has to do something! His creation and purpose for humanity has been derailed.
 - See **Genesis 3:14-24**.

 - God reveals the battle between “The Serpent” (and his “seed”) and the Son (and His “seed”).
 - **Matthew 13:37-39 (ESV) — 37** He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. **38** The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, **39** and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

 - **John 8:42-44 (NIV) — 42** Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. **43** Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. **44** You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2 **Despite our rebellion, the Father loves.**

- Read **Luke 15:11-32** (esp. v.20-24).
- The Prodigal Son decides to take responsibility for his own life and his inheritance. Sound familiar?
- The Prodigal Son parable is the ultimate story of how the Father sees and feels towards all of humanity.
- The Father never lost hope in His son's return.
- God's greatest desire is to see His children come home.
- Although this is not for this discussion, the oldest son represents faithful Israel. She was "God's portion" in the earth until the appointed time for His Son to be revealed.
 - God chose a people to protect His plan to bring about the "restoration of all things." (**Acts 3:21; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-4; Isaiah 65:17**)

3 **The Father could not come as Himself, so He sent Himself through His Son.**

- God saw us in our bondage and sent His son to do what no leader, prophet, or teacher could ever do.
- See **John 1:1-3, 9-18; John 3:16-17, 34-36.**
- **Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV) — 4** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **7** So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.
- **2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (ESV) — 14** For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; **15** 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.

- **Romans 5:7–11 (ESV) — 7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

4 **Why did Jesus have to die?**

- Read **Romans 5:6-10, 12, 17-21**.

- Some Other Key Scriptures: **Matthew 26:27; John 12:24; 6:53-55; Romans 3:23-25; Ephesians 2:13; Hebrews 9:14, 22; 1 John 5:6-8**.

- Jesus had to break-off the curse of “The Fall.”

- Love demands a sacrifice.

- His blood is the only witness to our righteousness.

- The witness of the blood destroys every lie of the enemy.

- He had to be the “first born” from death. (**Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:15, 18**)

5 **The story of the Gospel is a story of love's ultimate price!**

- Biblical history is not a demonstration of God's wrath against sin as much as it is about the pursuit of a loving Father for His kids.

- It's important for us to understand that the Father did not send Jesus to save us from Himself, but to save us from ourselves.

6 **We love because He first loved us.**

- The story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ points to the power of God's love through us.
- **1 John 4:18–19 (ESV) — 18** There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. **19** We love because he first loved us.
- What greater motivation to love could there be than Jesus' own sacrifice for us.

7 **Jesus' ultimate sacrifice gave Him the authority to restore God's presence to those of faith.**

- **John 14:25–26 (ESV) — 25** "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. **26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
- **1 John 4:13 (ESV) — 13** By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.