

The Story

Chapter 5 – The Word Behind the Word (The Revelatory Power of the Word)

Teaching Notes

March 3rd, 2021

1 AN OVERVIEW

- **Story Matters**—Story is the primary metaphor of how God designed life to unfold.
- **Chapter 1 (At the Beginning)**—From the beginning, the creation story shows the contrast between LOVE and FEAR. Ultimately, fear leads to the loss of the Presence of God, our divine mission as imagers of God, and the tree of life.
- **Chapter 2 (The Story of the Son)**—Meaninglessness and the power of Sin spread through the land because of the “fear of death.” The only solution was to introduce The Son into the story.
- **Chapter 3 (Crossing the River Into Our Story)**—Ultimately, the call of God into the Kingdom is to believe Him again. So, Jesus gifted us the powerful tool of REPENTANCE & BAPTISM—not as a way to win God’s affection, but as an ongoing daily process of restoration to a pre-Fall lifestyle of presence and mission.
- **Chapter 4 (Between the Words of the Story)**—Between the words of the story, God has given us the powerful gift of faith; specifically, a Word of Faith. God has spoken a Word into your story, and it is by faith we appropriate and are led by the Holy Spirit into that story!

2 EVERY GREAT STORY HAS A PATH TO BE FOLLOWED.

- This path is God-ordained. To travel off this path is dangerous, and it will ultimately derail you from your destination.
- A journey is a journey...
 - There is no story without a path.
 - A path has a beginning and a destination.
 - Between the bookends, there are highpoints along the way, as well as deep valleys.
- **Psalm 1:1–6 (ESV)** — **1** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; **2** but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. **3** He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. **4** The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. **5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; **6** for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.
- Your path is made worse or better by what fuels your imagination.
 - In this life, you don’t have any direct access to a map of your path.
- The Word of God promises a fruitful and meaningful story.
- The stormy winds will always come...but we can choose to go through it with or without hope.
 - So...we need a Word to carry us through the stormy times.

- When you are disconnected from Word, you are exposed to life's elements.

3 THE WORD IS MORE THAN AN ANCIENT LEATHER-BOUND BOOK OF MIRACLES AND HOW TO MAKE THEM HAPPEN; THE WORD UNLOCKS OUR MINDS TO THE TRUE REALITIES OF LIFE, THE SPIRITUAL REALM, AND ETERNITY.

- **Romans 15:4 (ESV) — 4** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
 - Hope moves us by what we cannot see in the days ahead.
- The Word is not a manual on life but a primer (a revelation) to life in Christ.
 - **Galatians 3:24–26 (ESV) — 24** So then, the law was our guardian (tutor) until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. **25** But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, **26** for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.
 - At the end of the day, there is only faith...
- Word was always meant to fuel faith.

4 SOME WORD ON THE WORD

- **Psalms 119:105 (ESV) — 105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
 - Word is a light.
- **Romans 10:17 (ESV) — 17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
 - Word creates faith.
- **Proverbs 1:7a (ESV) — 7** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...
 - Word gives me a proper perspective of God.
- **John 1:1–3 (ESV) — 1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
 - Word is Jesus.
- **John 8:31–32 (ESV) — 31** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, **32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
 - Word sets me free from obligatory living.
- **2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) — 16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 - Word originates as a breath of God for transformation.
- **2 Timothy 4:2 (ESV) — 2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

- Word is central to ministry.
 - **Joshua 1:6–8 (ESV) — 6** Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. **7** Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. **8** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
 - Word ensures the direction of our divine path.
 - **John 5:24 (ESV) — 24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
 - Word frees me from the bondage of death.
 - **John 6:63 (ESV) — 63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.
 - Word is Spirit.
 - **James 1:22–25 (ESV) — 22** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. **24** For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. **25** But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.
 - Word molds our identity.
- 5 **THE WORD OF GOD IS THE PRIMARY INTERSECTION WHERE THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES LIFE-GIVING REVELATION FOR OUR PATH**
- The Word brings us to a **CROSSROADS** with the Holy Spirit...
 - **Hebrews 4:9–13 (ESV) — 9** So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, **10** for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. **11** Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. **12** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13** And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
 - There is a place of rest to which only the Word of God can lead you.
 - **In this place, I have nothing prove.**
 - Jesus (the Word) reveals who we are so that we might enter "God's rest."
 - "God's rest" = the place of completion and wholeness.
 - "Strive to enter that rest..."
 - **While in this life, we are in a constant pursuit of staying in the place of rest.**

6 **THE WORD REVEALS THE UNIQUE REALITIES AND POSSIBILITIES TO OUR UNIQUE PATH.**

- **Proverbs 29:18 (ESV) — 18** Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint (or discouraged), **but blessed is he who keeps the law.**
 - Word will always bring you to a place of supernatural vision.
- Life will feel out-of-control if you don't have a Word to anchor you to your specific story.
 - **Psalm 119:49 (ESV) — 49** Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope.
- The Word originates outside of our thoughts—therefore, it has authority and power.
 - Growth only happens when something greater than our intellect moves us into something greater.
- The Word has supernatural origins—therefore, it creates a different kind of hope.

7 **THE WORD IS A LIVING TOOL IN THE HANDS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT—IT HELPS YOU TO DISCOVER THE WORD BEHIND THE WORD.**

- We're not just reading the Word for instruction but to highlight the meaning of my path.
- Choose to BE IN the Word so that you can be MOVED BY the Word into a MANIFESTATION OF the Word.