



What Story Are You Telling? Part 1: The Journey from Inadequacy to Purpose

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Jesus and His Disciples

Notes

16 One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. 17 Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" 18 And they left their nets at once and followed him. 19 A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat repairing their nets. 20 He called them at once, and they also followed him, leaving their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men. Mark 1:16-19 NLT

13 Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him. 14 As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him. Mark 2:13 NLT

13 Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called out the ones he wanted to go with him. And they came to him. 14 Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach, 15 giving them authority to cast out demons. Mark 3:13 NLT

34 Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 35 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. 36 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? 37 Is anything worth more than your soul? Mark 8:34 NLT

The mission of the Rabbi was to become a living example of what it means to apply God's word to one's life. A transformation had to have taken place.

The goal of a disciple was to become just like the Rabbi. And when you become like your Rabbi you invite other people to become your students.

What Story Are You Telling?

We've a Story to tell to the Nations by H. Ernest Nichol

Verse 1: We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right, a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.

Refrain: For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

Verse 2: We've a song to be sung to the nations, that shall lift their hearts to the Lord, a song that shall conquer evil, and shatter the spear and sword, and shatter the spear and sword.

Verse 3: We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigneth above has sent us His Son to save us, and show us that God is love, and show us that God is love.

Verse 4: We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow has trod, that all of the world's great peoples may come to the truth of God, may come to the truth of God! [Refrain]

Simon Peter

Summary

12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. 13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

2 Peter 1:12-15

But First

1 This letter is from Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to you who share the same precious faith we have. This faith was given to you because of the justice and fairness of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior. 2 May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. 3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. 5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. 8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. 10 So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. 11 Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What does Simon Peter want you to know?

1. His story: the significance of his name.

His birth name is Simon. But, Jesus gave him another name, Peter, that means solid rock. In the gospels, he was sometimes called Simon and sometimes Peter.

When Jesus called him Simon:

- He was either referring to Peter's past -- his life before Jesus,
- He was telling Peter that he was acting like Simon -- his old self.
- Or he was warning Peter.

And when Jesus called him Peter he was complimenting him for the way he is behaving, or speaking into Peter's destiny.

So when Peter calls himself Simon Peter he is saying, you need to listen to me because I was once Simon, a really messed up guy. But now I am Peter. Jesus restored my life and that is why I am qualified to talk to you.

2. God has given you everything that you need.

3. You need to respond to God with some effort.

4. You need to learn how to love.

Peter's Roadmap:

Moral Excellence – fancy word that just means - start by doing the right thing. Start by doing those little things that turn into habits. And probably the first decision you need to make is to actually read the Bible.

Knowledge – he is saying spend more time with Jesus to get to know him. It is not a plea to get really smart by reading and studying the Bible. It is a plea to read the Bible to know Jesus. To let God speak to you through the Bible. And as you do that you find that you are able to rely on Jesus more and more. And as you rely on Jesus naturally develop self-control.

Self-Control – this is where those habits come in. Peter is saying you cannot let those things control you.

Endurance – or perseverance. He is saying stay the course even if the path seems longer than necessary. This is where people get off the tracks. It takes too long. But, this endurance creates a greater or an increase in your faithfulness to God – so hold on.

Godliness – that word means authentic devotion to God. It means to keep the right attitude toward God. And how do you know that you have a right attitude toward God? You know it by your relationship with other people. Are you showing honor and respect to other?

Kindness – it means treating others like they were part of your family. That you bear each other's burdens. You share in their joy and in their suffering. And it also means making allowances for other people's preferences or opinions.

Love - To put others needs before us.