

The Story

Series: Following Jesus: Sharing Hope With Others

Psalm 75:9 TM (0910)

Steve Wood

March 15, 2009

I. The hijacking of the story

a. In the beginning was the story

Psalm 75:9 TM *And I'm telling the story of God Eternal*

Psalm 89:2 TM *I'll never quit telling the story of your love*

Psalm 102:21 TM *Write it so the story can be told in Zion, so GOD's praise will be sung in Jerusalem's streets And wherever people gather together along with their rulers to worship him.*

Acts 26:2 TM *Paul took the stand and told his story.*

Romans 4:1-3 TM *So how do we fit what we know of Abraham, our first father in the faith, into this new way of looking at things? If Abraham, by what he did for God, got God to approve him, he could certainly have taken credit for it. But the story we're given is a God-story, not an Abraham-story. What we read in Scripture is, "Abraham entered into what God was doing for him, & that was the turning point. He trusted God to set him right instead of trying to be right on his own."*

b. How the story became a system of beliefs

Isaiah 1:11 NLT ¹¹*"I am sick of your sacrifices," says the LORD. "Don't bring me any more burnt offerings!"*

c. What we lost in the exchange

II. Reclaiming what we lost

a. The power of the story

Hebrews 12:1 TM *When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!*

Examples of The Story being told in the Bible: The book of Genesis; The Song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32; Psalm 78; Stephen's speech in Acts 7; Paul's speech before Agrippa in Acts 26; the faith chapter, Hebrews 11

b. Your place in the story

1 Corinthians 10:11ff TM *These are all warning markers—DANGER!—in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. Our positions in the story are parallel—they at the beginning, we at the end—and we are just as capable of messing it up as they were. Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.*

c. The power of your story

Mark 5:18ff TM *As Jesus was getting into the boat, the demon-delivered man begged to go along, but he wouldn't let him. Jesus said, "Go home to your own people. Tell them your story—what the Master did, how he had mercy on you." The man went back and began to preach in the Ten Towns area about what Jesus had done for him. He was the talk of the town.*