

Session 2 - The Larger Story



"With every step of our lives we enter into the middle of some story which we are certain to misunderstand."

- G.K. Chesterton

This weekend...we want you to encounter God's fierce love, become beloved sons... to find out who you are, where you are, and the good God is up to in your life.

Mark 4:26

"The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil;

Matthew 13:47

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net cast into the sea, gathering fish of every kind;

Mark 4:30

"How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it? It is like a mustard seed,

"He has planted eternity in the human heart." Ecclesiastes 3:11

"Christianity in it's truest form tells us there is an Author and that He is good, the essence of all that is good and beautiful and true."

- John Eldredge

- Act I Paradise
- Act II Paradise Lost
- Act III Battle for the Kingdom
- Act IV Kingdom Restored

Act I Paradise

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning."

John 1:1-2

John 17:5

Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

John 17:24

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

Act II Paradise Lost

"Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him." Revelation 12:7-9



"A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him."

Daniel 7:10

"Of all bad men, religious bad men are the worst.

Of all created beings, the wickedest is the one who originally stood in the immediate presence of God."

- C.S. Lewis

Act III Battle for the Kingdom

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters.

Genesis 1:1,

"The morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy."

Job 38:7

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26, 27

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:1-5

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Genesis 3:6

"After all else failed, he conceived the most daring of plans. Under the cover of night, he stole into the enemy's camp incognito, the Ancient of Days disguised as a newborn. The Incarnation, as Philip Yancey reminds us, was a daring raid into enemy territory. The whole world lay under the power of the evil one and we were held in the dungeons of darkness. God risked it all to rescue us...."

The Sacred Romance

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Matthew 2:16-18

"He rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins

Colossian I:13-14

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Romans 5:17

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10

Act IV The Kingdom Restored

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf.

Hebrews 6:19-20

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life

Matthew 19:28,29

Questions

- I. What is your reaction to the Larger Story?
- 2. How have you lived in your own small story?
- 3. How have you lived in the Larger Story?