

Resurrection Sunday
Our Story & The New Story

4-16-17

A. Introduction

1. We all have our story, but God's goal for us and ours should be a new story with Jesus

B. Genesis 3 Adam & Eve - they were given authority on the earth and were to cultivate the garden and guard it from the devil (they had authority over him). The entire garden was theirs and they had free reign. God told them that they could not eat from one tree, the 'tree of the knowledge of good and evil.' The Creator can make the rules. They spent time with the Lord (how much we do not know). It is not clear how close they walked with Him

- a. **v7** once they sinned: naked, sewed fig leaves to cover shame – the birth of religion, handling sin our way; salvation by good works; earn heaven; everyone forgiven
- b. **v8** they hid from God, as if you could ever do this
 - sin causes people to be fearful of God, so in their defense, they endeavor to 'change the rules' sin today is redefined
 - people further defend themselves by denying there is a God so they are not accountable for their behavior; 'merely animals obeying basic instincts'
 - **v12** they blame others 'the woman You gave me' Adam blamed Eve, he really blamed God; the birth of psychology

C. Jonah 1-4 Jonah – sharp contrast, God loves everyone, wants to show them mercy and save them; this does not mean that **we** love everyone. God the Father wanted all nations to be evangelized by the Jews. The Jews became very nationalistic and exclusive and refused to do this. The Jews did not realize the importance of God's love and forgiveness. The Lord tells Jonah the prophet to go to Ninevah a city 800 miles away and tell the hated Assyrians to repent and if they do, God promises mercy on them. Jonah does not want to do this

1. Jonah boards a ship sailing to Tarshish. A storm arises and Jonah is revealed as responsible for the storm and after exhausting every other measure Jonah is thrown overboard
2. A great fish swallows Jonah and after 3 days and nights Jonah is 'spit out' onto the land
3. Jonah's heart is unchanged but he does give the Ninevahites God's message and they repent

D. Luke 15:11-31 The Prodigal Son – asked his father for his inheritance, as he wanted to 'experience life.' He may have thought that by being at home and working, he was missing out. The temptations of the flesh and worldly thoughts in our mind are strong. Eventually all of his resources expired and he was left, in an uncaring world, with nothing

1. Humiliated he took a menial, 'unclean' (to the Jews) job of feeding pigs
2. **v17-19** 'he came to himself' and decided to go back to his father to be a servant
3. He had no concept of the father's love; nor did he know His father as he should have
 - a. Reality – the father was constantly looking for him – you know these things by Word
4. **v20-24** the father restored him; we know our Father by the Word

E. **Matthew 14:22-32 Peter Walking on the Water** – Jesus dismissed the multitude who had been with Him. He made His disciples get into the boat and head for the other side of the lake. Then Jesus was alone and He prayed. Later He walked on the water and when the disciples saw him they were afraid. Thinking He was a ghost they cried out, then Jesus identified Himself

1. **v28-29** Peter asked Jesus to command him to come to Jesus on the water
2. **v29** Jesus said 'come' if the Lord says you can do something you can; Peter did
3. **v30** He sank when he looked at the circumstances; he became fearful and began to sink; **v31** the Lord stretched out His hand and rescued Peter
4. you can do anything the Lord says you can do if you keep your eyes on Jesus, but you have to know what the Lord says you can do by the Word

F. **Jesus** – perfect conduct; perfect relationship with God; an attitude of love; forgave everyone
 Whatever your story, He is ready to give you a new one; Jesus' life is our Example and His sacrifice is our doorway into our new story; His resurrection enables us to have a new story

1. **Galatians 2:20** let Him live through you by the Word; you are what the Word says
2. Adam & Eve could have confessed their sin if they knew God's character better
3. Jonah, by knowing God's love could have looked at the people as the Lord did
4. The prodigal son could have known his father and his father's love better
5. Peter could have known that he had to keep his eyes on Jesus and not circumstances
6. All of this is possible if you spend time learning about the Lord by His Word
7. Our sins are forgiven; His character is in us; His Word to instruct us; His power flowing through us; His ministry to show us that we miss nothing when we follow Him – nothing can compare