

Prestonwood Connection

His Story—Mine / The Lord's Supper

Presented by The Gospel of Luke

May 24, 2006 • Dr. David McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message, The Story Of Jesus]

The parables, *The Stories Of Jesus*, all given to help us to see and to understand truth concerning God's plan for our lives and the kingdom of God that is to come. And so time after time and place after place we walk with Jesus the Master Teacher and we've been learning together some things concerning *The Stories Of Jesus*. And it's so fascinating to me that Jesus, who when He spoke, spoke so many things in the form of a story. He knew how to communicate with the crowds. He knew how to draw attention and He knew to imprint people's lives so that they would remember and everyone of us loves the power of a story. We learn through stories, we love stories and frankly we live a story. Everyone of our lives is a living story that is being written day by day and so many of the things that make life matter are the things that you rehearse and the things that you remember and the things that you retell when you get back with people who shared something of the journey and the story of your life and there's so much that we can learn in every chapter in every story.

I read a story this week about a little girl who was standing watching her mother after dinner, finish some of the things that were going on in the kitchen, they'd just cleaned up the table from the evening meal and it was a day like today when the daylight was long and mom was standing at the sink and the sun was shining in the window and the little girl was just watching her mom as she was clearing off those dishes and putting them away and about that time the little girl looked up and said, "Mom!" she said, "Why is it that some of your hairs are white?" Heh, she said that because otherwise the mom's hair was a beautiful head full of brunette hair, but she had a few little white strands here and there. And the mom, trying to think of a good comeback said, "Well, sweetheart every time you do something wrong, make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." And the little girl got a very solemn look on her face. She wasn't really sure what to say and so she just stood there and watched for another moment or two and then she said, "Well then, Mom," she said "Why are all of grandmas hairs white?" Heh! [congregation laughter] Well, sometimes when you think about a story for just a little while things come together and that's exactly what we've been trying to do is to put some things together as we've studied *The Stories Of Jesus*. But having studied *The Stories Of Jesus*, I want us to end tonight talking about *The Story Of Jesus*, because *The Story Of Jesus* is the story that transforms. And I was thinking about Luke, all of our studies have been in the book of Luke, I was thinking about Luke and how does Luke tell *The Story Of Jesus*. And so

I thought that what we would do in preparing our hearts to receive these elements tonight is that we would simply think of *The Story Of Jesus as Presented By The Gospel of Luke*.

And of course, at the very outset the story of Luke opens with what we most commonly refer to as **THE CHRISTMAS STORY**. And if you turn in your Bible to Luke, chapter 2 and verse 11, you find the way that Luke introduces Jesus Christ to us. Luke, chapter 2 and verse 11, you recall that the 2nd chapter of Luke is the Christmas story, the one that we most often read and love and it is here that the proclamation is made:

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

And when we think of *The Story Of Jesus*, we think of the story of a Savior, **A SAVIOR**. That's the way that He is first presented by Luke. This physician, this follower, he said Jesus has come to save. Luke knew a lot, as a doctor, about intervention and the need that people had to have a physician, someone who would come and help them in a time of need. And so it is interesting that as he introduces to us the Christ, under the influence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit he tells us that this Jesus is the Savior, the Physician, the One who will intervene on behalf of all mankind and Jesus is come as the Messiah in order to provide a rescue for you and for me. So when we think of *The Story Of Jesus*, we think of the story of a Savior. And why do we need a Savior? Because we all need to be forgiven of our sins. Everyone needs forgiveness! Everyone needs the healing that comes because of the wound of sin. Everyone wants to know what it is to be set free and there's only one way that you can experience forgiveness and freedom and ultimately fullness in your life and that is through the Savior who is Christ The Lord.

As we take these elements tonight we proclaim the message of a Savior. We do not proclaim the saving power of a church or the saving power of a ritual, we proclaim what these elements represent and His name is Jesus, He is the One who come to save people from their sins. And salvation is in Christ, not anyone or anything else.

But not only does Luke present Jesus to us as the Savior. When he tells us the story of Jesus he introduces Him to us as **A TEACHER**. A Teacher, and that's what we've been observing and that's what we've been learning all through this season of messages in The Connection Service. We started in Luke, chapter 8, looking at the first of the parables presented in the gospel of Luke, it's a parable **about farming**, it's about soils and really it was the one that we needed to start with because it talked about the different conditions of the heart. Just like there're different soil conditions there are different heart conditions and the effect of what we hear all has to do with what's happening in the heart. And so we talked about sandy soil and we talked about rocky soil and we talked about weed covered soil and then we talked about good fertile soil. So we talked about farming.

And then we talked **about faith** and prayer and we learned some things about prayer through *The Stories Of Jesus* and I love it every time we have Jim and Kay Johns come and help to lead us in prayer. I appreciate you doing that and...and this is something they do, they teach people in prayer and help people to grow in prayer. We've included their website there on the a..., handout that you have tonight for their ministry so that you can gain some resources and learn more about prayer. But, Jesus taught us to pray and told us to teach others to pray. And so we studied a story about farming, about faith...about **friendship**, about **a fool**, about **the future**, about **FRUITFULNESS**, about the father.

How can we ever forget the story of **the father** whose son walked away, whose son went astray, but a father who gave us a picture of the love and the faithful...the faithfulness of God.

We talked about **finances** and we talked about **fatigue** and we talked about **favoritism**. All these were *The Stories Of Jesus*. And one by one from Luke, chapter 8, all the way through Luke, chapter 19, we studied these stories of Jesus, because each story was a parable, an earthly story with a heavenly meaning and each story was intended to help us to see and to un...understand something about the kingdom of heaven. It was a story that was to deliver us from the rut and the ritual of religion that we might live in reality in a daily walk in relationship with Jesus Christ. Every one of the stories of Jesus took us to the place of understanding that the faith that we experience is transformational in life. It takes us from one realm to the next and that's what happened in the parables of Jesus.

And then Luke says *The Story Of Jesus* is not only the story of the Savior and the story of a Teacher, but it's all a story about **AN OFFERING**...an offering. Not an offering like you receive in an offering plate, but an offering that was provided because of the love of God. Luke chapter 22, verses 14 and following talk to us about this offering that has been provided for us and in the 22nd chapter of Luke, beginning in verse 14 we read the words that we have here on the screen:

¹⁴When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.

¹⁵And then He said to them, "With fervent desire I desire to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I say to you, I will not longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷Then He took the cup, and He gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹And He took the bread, and gave thanks and broke it, and He gave it to them saying, "This I My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

What we have tonight is simple it's what has been given for us. **CHRIST** is **OUR SACRIFICE**, **CHRIST** is **OUR SUFFICIENCY**, **CHRIST** is **OUR SUBSTITUTE** and therefore **CHRIST** is **OUR SALVATION** and **CHRIST** is **OUR SATISFACTION**. All that we need is in Him. And that's why tonight as we gather at this table that we remember that He is the One time, All time, Offering that was given for us. How, I pray that you have received of that offering. That's really all

that is required to share in this supper tonight. Now, I want you to understand this is not something you need to do if you're seeking God, you need to see and hear what we share tonight in this place, but the purpose in taking the elements of the supper is not that you might earn favor or receive grace. Grace is in Christ, but if you have received Him and His full and sufficient payment, His offering for sin, then take of these tonight and celebrate what Christ has done for you. But *The Story Of Jesus* is the story of an offering. He was given for us.

And then *The Story Of Jesus* is the story of **A REDEEMER**. A Redeemer...

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it...

How can I proclaim it, because I have been redeemed and I was redeemed, not of my own accord, but with the precious blood of Christ. Life is in the blood. Healthy blood means a healthy life and Jesus shed His pure, perfect, sinless blood that we might have the payment and covering of sin and that we might be redeemed. Redemption is the whole drama of the Bible, from cover to cover there is a scarlet thread, a red cord that runs through the Bible and it's all about blood, because in order for there to be satisfaction and forgiveness of sin, there had to be a payment and Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law. Jesus redeemed us from the stain of sin and therefore *The Story Of Jesus*, is the story of redemption. He died for us, He was buried, He rose again on the 3rd day and through this full and complete work of Christ we are redeemed. Celebrate the redeemed. As you take these elements tonight think of your Redeemer and bless His name.

So *The Story Of Jesus* is the story of a Savior, it's the story of a Teacher, it's the story of an Offering, it's the story of a Redeemer, but *The Story Of Jesus* includes **THE STORY OF YOU**...of you and of me. Because what Jesus came to do, He came to do for us. Now He did it for the Father, He did it because it was the one and the only way that salvation could ever be accomplished, but He did it with a heart of love that you and I might be made acceptable in Him and that we might come to this place tonight, not with guilt and certainly not in our own glory, but that we might come to this place tonight having tasted of His mercy and grace.

[John 3:16]

"For God so love you, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life."

And *The Story Of Jesus* is the story of God becoming flesh that we who are born in flesh and born in sin, might be delivered and that we might stand in the presence of God in fullness and glory, in wonder and in love, because of all that He has done for us.

So tonight this is for you. He did this for you and while not one of us in this room is worthy to come to this place, each of us is invited to come because of the grace of Jesus Christ.

And so Father in this moment we give You thanks, thanks for the work of redemption, thanks for the completion of salvation and Father what is true legally and appositionally and theologically, Lord let it be true in our lives tonight, that we might have right standing with You and that we might remember in this moment the One who gave Himself for us that we might be right with You, that we might live for You and that our lives would not be empty and meaningless, but that every day would be filled with purpose and joy and satisfaction, because we knew Jesus our Lord and Savior. Lord Jesus You are the Light of the world, You are the Lover of our souls and tonight we thank You for what You have done for us and we remember that You said:

"He who eats this bread and drinks this cup, does proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

And so Lord until that day help us to keep our eyes on Jesus in Whose name we pray. Amen.