

CRUCIFORMITY

life as Jesus intended

Part 7: *Entering the Story of God*

INTRO – Stalking God vs. Entering God’s Story

John 20:21

The Story of God in Six Acts

Genesis 1:1-Revelations ☺

Act One – Perfection: Creation and the Garden

- Friends to form a family with no religion
- Love makes vulnerability the starting point for intimacy

Act Two – Broken: The fall of our first

- The Tree of “I’ll decide for myself what is right and wrong”
- “I was afraid because I was naked and so I hid”
- The serpent-crushing, suffering seed of Eve

Act Three – Struggle: The case study of Israel

- Scene One - Two Paths and Fathers (Abram)
- Scene Two - The Exodus and the Priests (Moses)
- Scene Three – The Kingdom and the Kings (David)
- Scene Four – The Exile and the Prophets (Elijah)

What doesn’t work to change the human heart?

- Give me the rules
- Give me my space
- Give me strong leaders
- Give me harsh accountability

The plot twists?

- God’s friends – The Law doesn’t apparently apply to them
- God’s prediction – The Law won’t work
- God’s promise – God will write the Law on our hearts

Act Four – Rescue: The life of Jesus

The Plot twist? The irreligious Messiah

- The love ethic (deciding case by case) replaces the Law
- Enemy love replaces the Promised Land
- Servants replace strong leaders
- Lavish grace replaces harsh accountability

The story of two sons

The resurrection

Act Five – Community: The church

Plot twists:

Paul, Captain Religion becomes an irreligious revolutionary
The irreligious revolution becomes the world’s biggest religion
Reformation – a slow journey back

Act Six – Renewal: The return of Jesus and the new earth

Audience?

Isaiah 14:12-14; Ez 28:12-19; Lk 10:18; 1 Cor 2:8; Col 2:13-15; Rev 12

CONCLUSION – Getting God

John 14:1-11

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. What is one of your favorite stories and why is it your favorite?
2. What part of the story of God struck you or challenged you the most?

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. In Act Four we discovered that Jesus flipped all the religious ideas of Israel on its head. Read the following passages and list the various ways they illustrate “The irreligious Messiah.” a) The love ethic replaces the Law (Luke 10:25-37); b) Enemy love replaces the Promised Land (Luke 6:27-36, 7:1-10); c) Being servants replaces strong leaders (Luke 22:24-26; John 13:1-17); d) Lavish grace replaces harsh accountability (John 8:1-11). As you review Jesus’ teaching, can you think of any stories from the Old Testament that serve as a contrast to what Jesus taught?
4. Read Luke 15:11-31. How does this story demonstrate the four points listed above under The Irreligious Messiah? How would you have expected a typical Jewish father committed to the Law to respond? In the end, do you think the younger brother is more or less likely to misuse the father’s grace? Why do you think most people believe punishment is more effective to keep people in line than lavish grace? Can you think of a situation where you experienced lavish grace and how did it impact you?

SO WHAT?...

5. Which of the four teachings of Jesus (see above The Irreligious Messiah) do you need to apply most to your life right now? Brainstorm with each other practical steps in how to apply this teaching. Pray for each other as you commit to living these teachings.

Tim Day @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, January 20, 2008