THE STORY CHAPTER 25

Jesus, the Son of God

April 1-2, 2017

Appearing on the Big Screen…

Key Idea: The Son of God who lives, lives in you.

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. (I John 4:15 NIV)

1. Let Jesus show you his identity.

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” (The Story Pg. 353; Mark 8:27-29)

2. Let Jesus show you your identity in Him.

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (Matthew 16:18 NIV)

THE STORY CHAPTER 25

Jesus, the Son of God

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April 1-2, 2017

To view The Story Chapter 25 sermon video by Travis Eades, [CLICK HERE](http://media.oakhillschurch.com/default.aspx?page=3679&item=578).

I’m excited to be with you today. It’s good to be back home. I spent the last 10 days with Max and several others from Oak Hills in Israel studying and retracing the steps of Jesus. The only problem with doing that and then coming back to preach the next day is that you feel like a volcano ready to erupt with everything you’ve learned. So for the next couple hours…so for the next few minutes I will do my best to stay focused on chapter 25 of *The Story*, Jesus, Son of God.

*PRAYER*

Last week I was boarding my flight to Israel. I was going to be leading worship on the trip so I had my guitar in hand. There was a gentleman standing next to me in line and I could tell he wanted to say something. I smiled. He said, “What kind of guitar is that?” I said, “It’s a Taylor acoustic.” “Oh, that’s a nice one,” he said. I said, ‘Thanks.” We made it a little closer to the gate and with a very inquisitive face he asked, “So are you, you know, like …big?” I wasn’t exactly sure how to respond. He said, “You know are you like, good? Famous? I said, well have you heard of Chris Tomlin?” He got excited. I said, “Well I sing a lot of songs he wrote.” He was not satisfied with my answer but I knew what he was getting at. He wanted to know who I was. As if to say, excuse me, should I be impressed? Should we do a selfie and send it to the grandkids. He wanted to know who he was talking to. He was trying to figure me out.

Ever tried figuring someone out? A friend, a spouse, a coworker? Some people are open books. Some people are a little harder to get to know. But one thing I’ve found to be human nature is the closer we are to someone, the more we depend on someone, the more we want to know about them. Can I trust you? Do you care about me? We just want to know who we’re talking to.

So did the people of Jesus’s day.

If you’re new to Oak Hills, we’ve been studying the Bible chronologically using a resource called *The Story*. We’ve gone through the Old Testament and found that everything we’ve read to this point, has been to point to the point of the Story-Jesus.

We know from the gospels as well as other historical writings, Jesus walked this earth some 2000 years ago. He was a son, a brother, a teacher. From ages 12 -30, we know very little. He was likely studying like most Jewish children. He would have been memorizing the Torah. By 15, he would likely have memorized the Tanach *(Tah-NAHCK).* What’s the Tanach? The entire Old Testament!

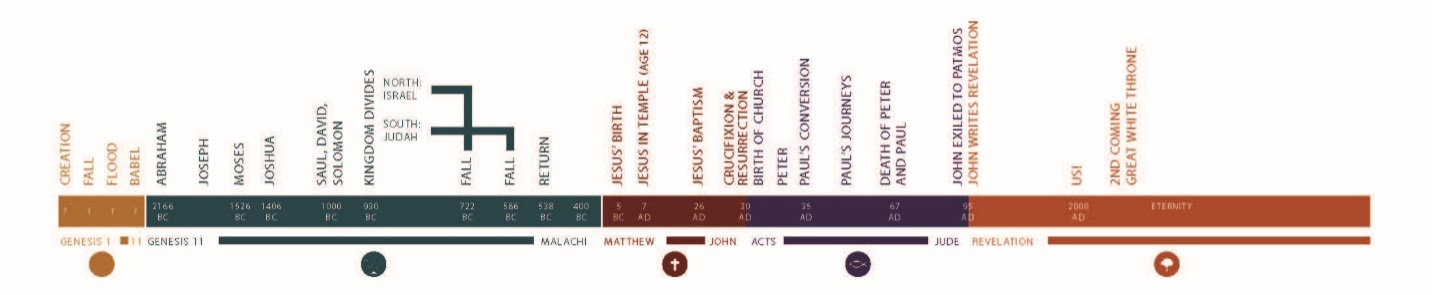
There was controversy surrounding his birth. A virgin birth? Jesus would grow up in a small town. And word gets around in a small town. Some archeologists think the population was around 150 to 200. That’s small. No wonder Nathaniel in John 1:46 referring to Jesus said, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” It was backwoods, backwater, and backwards.

Had he been in an airport, he wouldn’t have likely been pointed out in a crowd as someone…big. He wasn’t well known or famous. No one was contacting him for a primetime interview.

But at some point, all that began to change. It wasn’t that he was seeking the attention. In fact, he avoided it. But, people talk. And people began to notice. Stories began to circulate about this Jesus of Nazareth. The lame walking, the blind seeing. Many of you have been reading about it these last few weeks. Word on the street was that he could still a storm and even raise the dead. These towns in which Jesus healed and taught were on popular trade routes. A merchant might walk in wanting to discuss a good price for date seeds, but what they left talking about-Well, they would still be talking about Jesus when they hit the next village. And word began to spread. And people began to ask, “Who is this man?” *Is* he just a man, or something more? Could he be... could this be the Messiah?

Now let’s remember where we are in the course of history and why the Messiah is such a big deal.

*Refer to Timeline poster.*

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If you had lived in Jesus’ day and someone began talking about the Messiah, you would know exactly what they meant. Except for a brief 100-year period of independence, God’s nation of Israel has been oppressed by different rulers and empires for over 7 decades. The Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, the Greeks, and now the Romans.

They remembered the promise to Abraham that he would build a nation. They knew the covenant made with David. They knew the prophecy. They prayed for its fulfillment. They were under the thumb of Rome rule and they longed to see a descendant of David seated on the throne once again.

Could it be Jesus? People wanted to know who it was they were talking to. They were trying to figure him out.

Maybe you are too. This is a large gathering of believers but I would not assume that everyone here has decided what to do with Jesus. Jesus didn’t even assume this of his closest followers. He was about to pose to them the most important question they would ever answer.

If you have your Story books turn to page 353 or in your Bibles to Mark 8.

**27**Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

**28**They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

**29**“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

*Pg. 353; Mark 8:27-29*

Let’s stop there for a moment. Jesus had been with his disciples in the area of Galilee. They headed north about 25 miles to a place called Caesarea Philippi, which was named after Herod’s son, Philip. Actually, Philip, not one for modesty, named it after himself. The region was known as a cultic high place of worship to the god Pan who was half goat, half man. It’s where we get the words pandemonium and panic.

I was there a few days ago. I went just to take a couple pictures for you. You can see here a niche in the stone where they would have placed statues of Pan.



Right beside that spot is a cave that the pagans believed was a gateway to the underworld. They referred to it as the gates of Hades. Sound familiar?



Most Jews were afraid to go to this place because it was a place of false worship. I’ll admit it felt a little eerie to me all these years later. But it was the perfect setting for Jesus to ask, “Who do you say I am.”

Here they are in the region of pagan worship. They had heard the speculation. John the Baptist. That would have been pretty wild given John had been beheaded by this point. Elijah? He did not die. He was taken up never to be seen again. Maybe he’s back. Some other prophet. But notice Jesus isn’t interested in what others think. He looks his disciples in and says, “I want to know, what do you believe?” Wow. They’ve just been asked the question that serves as the foundation for this entire story. Everything hinges on this question.

Finally, Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

Matthew’s account in chapter 16 says, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Literally, You are the Son of the God who lives.

This is why before each baptism, we ask the same question: Do you believe Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God? Here’s why the answer to this question is so important.

If you believe…

**The Son of the God who lives, lives in you.**

Listen to this from I John 4:15

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

*1 John 4:15*

If you are facing trouble in this life, you don’t face it alone. The Son of the God who lives, lives in you. If you’re trying to mend a broken relationship, you don’t mend it alone. The Son of the God who lives, lives in you. If you’re looking for a job, you don’t look alone. If you’re grieving a loss, you don’t grieve alone.

If you’re still searching to discover the true identity of Jesus, you don’t search alone. The Son of the living God, who wants to live in you, he will help you. He helped Peter. Jesus tells Peter, you didn’t come up with this on your own. It has been **shown to you** by the Father in heaven.

**1. Let Jesus show you his identity.**

He will show you if you’re willing. Are you spending time reading the Bible? Praying for insight? Spending time with people who can and want to help you. Jesus wants you to see that the Son of God who lives, lives in you but he wants you to see more than that.

After Peter confesses Jesus, Jesus responds in Matthew’s account in chapter 16:

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

*Matthew 16:18*

You see what Jesus is doing? Jesus not only telling them who he is. He is telling them who they are. I tell you that you are Peter.

Jesus is not saying he’s building his church on Peter, but the truth Peter revealed. Peter would have his ups and downs. He would struggle with Jesus talking about his death. Even after proclaiming Jesus as the son of God, it’s Peter who denies Jesus three times fearing for his own life. But Jesus could see what Peter couldn’t. He could see Peter’s story all the way to the end.

He can see your story as well. Don’t like the way your story is going? Would you let him show you the other side of your story?

**2. Let Jesus show you your identity in Him.**

This is an important distinction. Your identity in him.

There is only one star of your story. Everybody has something in them that wants to stand in the spotlight at center stage to create an identity for themselves or let someone else stand in the center and tell them who they are but that place is only reserved for one. Only the one and only son gets to tell you who you are. That place is reserved for the Son of the God who lives.

The reason we love being in the center of our story is that we can say what goes. My body is my body. My time is my time. My resources. My money, gifts, and talents are mine. However, I will caution you. Standing in the center of your story may sound tempting but it comes at a high price.

Standing here is exhausting and it brings nothing but anxiety. Where is my life headed? What am I going to do? What does God want for me?

Friends, if you want peace, step out of the center of your story and invite Jesus to his rightful place. He will not force himself into the center of your story but he will never pass up an invitation.

Life will never make sense as long as we stand in the center of our story. Focused on our wants, our desires, our needs. Jesus once stood on a mountainside and said to notice the birds. Notice the lilies of the field. Do they worry? No. Why because the Father in Heaven cares for them. How much more valuable are you then the birds of the air and lilies of the field. Will your Father not care for you?

Let Jesus show you his identity. His power, his authority over anything you’re facing. And let him show you your identity in Him. Step out of the center of your story and let Jesus show you what he sees when he sees you.

To help you do that, I want to invite our Student Ministry band back out. Aren’t you proud of our students using their gifts to serve?

Sometimes we make points, make application, and make our way to the exits to make our way to lunch. The Father said, “This is my son, listen to him.” I want to allow you a moment to listen. Listen to the words of this song and listen closely to what Jesus is saying to you.

**When Love Sees You**

Words and Music by Bernie Herms and Nichole Nordeman.

Album: Music Inspired by The Story

© 2011 Birdwing Music Bernie Herms Music Birdboy Songs (adm. At EMICMG Publishing.com)

Blessed are you as you weep on your knees

With perfume and tears washing over My feet

And blessed are you, beggar, hopeless and blind

Calling for mercy when I'm passing by

Blessed are you, shaking your head

At two tiny fish and some bread

And blessed are you as you tremble and wait

For the first stone thrown at your sinful disgrace

Tell Me your story, show Me your wounds

And I'll show you what Love sees when Love looks at you

Hand Me the pieces, broken and bruised

And I'll show you what Love sees when Love sees you

Blessed are you, walking on waves

To find yourself sinking when you look away

Blessed are you, leper, standing alone

The fear on their faces is all that you've known

Blessed are you, lonely widow who gave

Your last shiny coin to Yahweh

Blessed are you with your silver and lies

Kissing the One who's saving your life

Tell Me your story, show Me your wounds

And I'll show you what Love sees when Love looks at you

Hand Me the pieces, broken and bruised

And I'll show you what Love sees when Love sees you

I see what I made in your mother's womb

And I see the day I fell in love with you

I see your tomorrows, nothing left to chance

I see My Father's fingerprints

I see your story, I see My name

Written on every beautiful page

You see the struggle, you see the shame

I see the reason I came

I came for your story, I came for your wounds

To show you what Love sees when I see you

*PRAY*