THE STORY CHAPTER 24

No Ordinary Man

March 25-26, 2017

Appearing on the Big Screen…

**38**Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

**39**He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

**40**He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

*Pg. 343; Mark 4:38-40*

**If Jesus is in your boat, you don’t need to be afraid of storms.**

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

28 “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

29 “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

*Pg. 348; Matthew 14:27-29*

**If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat.**

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.

*Pg. 346; Matthew 14:13*

**Give Jesus what you have and let him multiply it.**

After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.

*Pg. 348; Matthew 14:23*

**If you don’t come apart, you’ll come apart.**

THE STORY CHAPTER 24

No Ordinary Man

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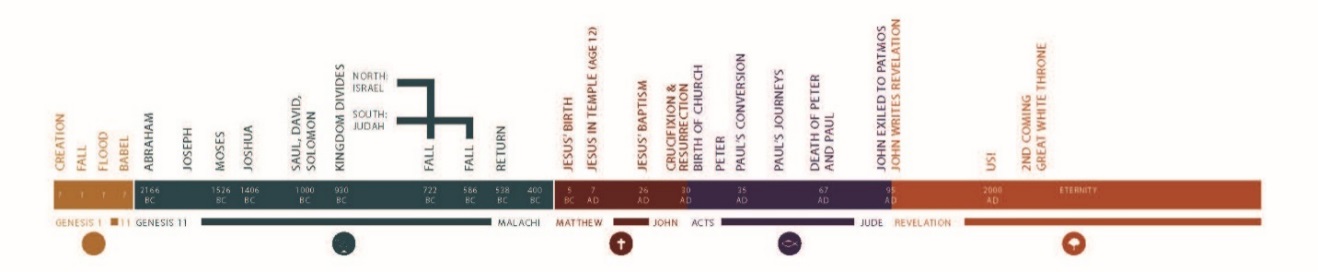
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**To view The Story Chapter 24 sermon video,** [CLICK HERE](http://media.oakhillschurch.com/default.aspx?page=3679&item=576)**.**

**From the Upper Story**

We are on a journey through the greatest story ever told. It is actually a story that isn’t finished being written, which means you and I are characters in this story. God is challenging us to have the same kind of faith in him we have seen in the characters we have studied in the Old Testament and now the New Testament. God wants us to have courage enough to follow him, to align our life with the story he is writing. We are learning through the characters in these true stories principles about God and lessons that will help us live a life in God that will lead us down paths of righteousness.

*Refer to Timeline poster.*

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The story begins with God’s vision. His crowning achievement is when God created us and then came down to be with us in a beautiful garden. But the first two people, Adam and Eve, reject this vision and are escorted from the garden. Because they represent humanity their decision carries over to us. Their sin nature is transmitted to us through conception. We prove this transaction has taken place when we engage in our first wrong.

The story of Noah showed us that we can’t fix this problem ourselves. So, God launches a plan to get us back which he will accomplish through a new nation he builds from scratch called Israel. What is the Plan? The plan is not a “what” but a “who” and he will come from Israel – more specifically the tribe of Judah, from the lineage of David. God is going to actually come down and take on human flesh and take all of our sin unto himself and pay for it with his sinless blood.

This is why the Virgin Birth is critical. Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, wasn’t born from the seed of the man but of the Holy Spirit. When the blood pours from his side, his back, from crown of his head, it isn’t contaminated, like ours, but pure and God the Father accepts it as payment for all of our sins – can I get a Hallelujah? All who embrace Jesus in this life will be forgiven. When this happens, Jesus, the carpenter, begins construction on our new residence in the kingdom to come – which has a beautiful garden right dab in the middle of it.

So after all these years of waiting for God’s perfect timing, Jesus is born. Fast forward thirty years - Jesus ministry begins at his baptism by John.

**Living life in the Lower Story**

Today we come to chapter 24 of *The Story*. Jesus is in his second of three years of ministry before the cross. The first was a year of **inauguration**. This is the year of his **popularity**. The final year will be a year of **opposition**.

Crowds by the thousands are gathering to get just a glimpse of Jesus, to hear him teach, to watch him perform miracles, and to even be healed. And he never disappointed them.

As we read this section of scripture we are reminded that **we are wise to build our lives on the teaching of Jesus.** Know the teaching and life of Jesus like the back of your hand and then have the courage to live it out in your own life.

Let me give you just four examples:

The first one comes from the incident on page 343 of *The Story* or Mark 4:35 where Jesus is in the boat with the disciples and Jesus falls asleep. A storm breaks loose that is so severe the water is coming into the boat and it looks like they are going to capsize. Meanwhile, Jesus is still fast asleep. They wake him up and charge him with not caring about them. Jesus tells the storm to “be quiet, be still” and the water becomes completely calm. Then he turns to the disciples and issues this challenge – “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

**If Jesus is in your boat, you don’t need to be afraid of storms.**

Are you living in the midst of a storm right now?

A few months ago Rozanne was in for a checkup, and they found something suspicious on the scan, which turned out to be an enlarged lymph node. The doctor said it was “impressive” in terms of its size – a little over 4 centimeters. He was concerned enough to order a biopsy, and the pathologist and pulmonologist were right there to tell us on the spot what they saw.

As I was waiting all alone in the waiting room for the doctors to come tell me the results, that waiting room was my equivalent of the boat. Everything was quiet, unlike the disciples where the waves were whipping and the wind howling. I find that the older get, the more boats I am in when storms break out. When Rozanne and I are in a boat, we rehearse together the promises of God. We ask, “What is the worst thing that could happen?” If you’ll remember, last year it was me, and she was in the waiting room, and the worst that could happen for either of us was that we could have died. We remind ourselves that Jesus has provided healing from death. We ask ourselves in this moment of turbulence, “Do we really believe this?” and, we do.

When the pulmonologist came in, he calmed the storm. He said, “It looks like a really big lymph node, and there don’t seem to be any problems.” When Rozanne woke up, she looked to me with the question in her eyes, and I was able to tell her “You’re going to be okay.” We cried together – we have averted this storm once again.

Every time I find myself back in this boat, and the storm breaks out, because I have rehearsed the promises of Jesus, and gotten to know him more, because I have, like the disciples, spent more time with him, I’m finding myself with less and less fear. Maybe on the day when the storm that actually capsizes my boat or my wife’s boat, I will be able to declare with the confidence of the Psalmist, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for your rod and staff comfort me. ”

On page 348 of *The Story* or Matthew 14:22, we have another boat incident. This time the disciples are in a boat without Jesus. Once again, the waters are super choppy because of the strong winds. The morning sun is about to break over the horizon. Off in a distance they see a figure walking on water towards them.

Their first guess is that it is a ghost. Jesus calls out and tells them not to be afraid because it’s him. This seems to be a theme in Jesus’ ministry, because we live in fear. Peter says, “Lord if it’s you…tell me to come to you on the water.”

Jesus said, “Come on out.”

Peter steps out and by golly, he starts walking on water. And, as long as he keeps his eyes on Jesus and not the waves, he’s good.

The same is true of us.

**If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat.**

Some of you are playing it way too safe. God has more in store for you. For some of you, you even know what it is, but you cling to life in the boat. You cringe at taking a faith risk.

* For some of you it is downsizing your home and expenses to have less stress and more time with your family.
* For some of you it is leaving a job that is sucking you dry
* For others it is taking a risk and saying yes to marriage.
* For others it is having the courage to dump the person you’re seeing because they are duds for Christ.
* Maybe it’s learning to accept who you are and how God made you and get out there and go for it. Don’t hold back on God’s calling for you.

A number of years ago our second son David was born, and without any sonogram to warn us, we discovered he did not have a left hand – he is missing everything below his left elbow. We were concerned about his ability to survive in a “pretty world,” where everyone has to have their act together just to show up. We wondered if his self-esteem would be strong. We went to a number of psychologists and counselors, and one counselor said, “Watch him. If he walks into a room and hides his stub and hangs back in the corner of the room, then you’ll know he is struggling. However, if he comes into the room first, and his stub is out in clear sight, you’ll know he is comfortable in his own skin, and everything is okay.” As we watched David, we noticed he was the first one in the room, and he was waving his stub all over the place – he couldn’t care less about it. Later on it became his pickup line for girls! They would ask, “What happened to your arm?” And he would say, “It was a violent storm on the ocean that day. I jumped into the water to save the baby, and a shark bit off my arm, but I saved the baby.” And the women would say, “I love you!”

Today, our son David is 29 years old, married to a beautiful woman who was raised here at Oak Hills. He is an attorney, living in Washington D.C., at 1717 Pennsylvania Avenue. I asked him the other day during the hearings for the Supreme Court judge, “David, do you see yourself being a judge one day?” He said, “Maybe, but right now I enjoy advocating for people who have no voice.” I said to myself, “This is a guy who has stepped out of the boat.”

Here is another one you can and should live by. One more among dozens.

This one comes from page 346 of *The Story* or Matthew 14:1-12. John the Baptist, Jesus’ cousin who proclaimed his arrival so fearlessly and baptized him, has just been beheaded by Herod. Matthew 14:13 tells us –

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.

*Pg. 346; Matthew 14:13*

But the crowds just followed him and just kept pulling at him to teach some more and heal some more. The story tells us he had compassion on them even in his time of need and conducted a healing service for them. At evening time the disciples came and told Jesus to send the people back into town to get something to eat.

Jesus instructed them to take feed them – all 5,000 and that’s just the men, which means there were roughly 15,000 people covering the hillside. The disciples, who didn’t have two nickels to rub together, said, “You’re crazy, it would take a half of year’s salary for these people just to have one bite of food.” Andrew, one of the disciples said, “There is this boy who has five loaves of bread and two fish, but how far will that go?”

You know the story, but you are paying me to tell it, so here we go. Jesus tells them to have the people seated. He takes the bread and fish and give thanks for it and has them start passing out the food. Everyone eats until they are full and there is still some food left over. That’s crazy, but Jesus is no ordinary man. And from it we learn this important truth –

**Give Jesus what you have and let him multiply it.**

Here’s one more of my personal favorites from the “best of Jesus” teaching album –

After Jesus fed the 5000 he was physically and emotionally exhausted from all the demands and plus he knew he needed to process the death of John. So, he sends the disciples on ahead of him in a boat to their next location. Here’s what it says on page 348 or Matthew 14:23 in your Bible -

After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.

*Pg. 348; Matthew 14:23*

Jesus is modeling a very important principle for us –

**If you don’t come apart, you’ll come apart.**

Some of you needed to hear that. Jesus not only did it here, but read the gospels for yourself. You will see a pattern in the life of Jesus. Right before a big decision or right after a major event in his life, he got away from it all and spent time with his Father. If Jesus felt a need to do this, how much more do we need to do it?

Some of you are burning the candle at both ends. Some of you are faced with a major decision. Some of you have gone through some serious events in your life. As a Christian, you need to get alone with God and get yourself centered; get yourself anchored; get yourself refreshed.

Early that morning just as the sun was rising, a refreshed Jesus got up and that is the day he walked on water to catch up with the guys in the boat ahead of him.

**Conclusion**

Jesus not only came to die for our sins, he came to show us how to live. Bathe yourself in the teaching and life of Jesus; know his way of life better than anyone else. Follow his example and you too may be walking on water.

*PRAY*