

David, part 1: The Power of Stories

What are some of your favorite stories as an individual? A family?

Story is the primary way in which God give us his revelation about himself.

“Facts will be forgotten, but stories that incorporate facts and information will have a greater effect of listeners and will more likely be remembered. Stories make people want to listen, by taking the abstract and turning it into an emotional plot!”

“Stories are a powerful way of communicating ideas, they signpost our experiences, make sense of what we know, and create continuity. We learn by both hearing and telling stories and practicing through stories.”

Matthew 13:34-35 Message version

Life is not an accumulation of abstractions such as love and truth, sin and salvation, atonement and holiness. Life is filled with details that are all connected organically, personally, specifically, experientially and wholistically.

Story is the Gospel way

In the backdrop of all the David stories, as is for us, is the presence of, and the working of God in our lives.

The David story has a whole, is both simultaneously earthy (human) and godly, maybe unlike any other character in Scripture.

Psalms 139: 7-10

Though his presence is always with us, we can refuse to participate with God.

Hedonism

We recognize that we are broken and incomplete....

The story of all stories is God revealing himself to humans by becoming human.

John 1:14

Over time, we have a harder time taking seriously the human elements of the Jesus story than the divine. In other words, it is easier to believe that Jesus was God, than to believe that he was human.

Jesus does not take shortcuts to heaven by “by-passing” all of our earthy humanity. So, neither should we.

“Son of David”

2 Samuel 7:12-13

Matthew 15:22

An incredible reminder that there is nothing, absolutely nothing, that God cannot use to work out salvation, eternal life, kingdom values into our lives!

“If we are to get the most out of the Jesus story, we must first look to get all out of the David story.” Eugene Peterson. The David Story serves to train us in the seeing, accepting, and participating in the miracles hidden in the ordinary of life.

But the David Story never skips the ordinary everyday aspects of humanity.

At the same time, there is never a doubt that God is at the center of the plot, and is always present with David as he is with you and me...(though at times he is silent and hidden).

The David story is a deep dive into our own humanity, a deep dive into ourselves!

Psalm 18:19 ESV version

“The image of David vaulting the wall catches and holds my attention. David running, coming to a stone wall, and without hesitation leaping the wall and continuing on his way---running towards Goliath, running from Saul, pursuing God, meeting Jonathan, rounding up stray sheep, whatever by running. And leaping!” --- Eugene Peterson Leap Over a Wall