

The Story of Jesus
Part 52
The End But Only Beginning

Chris Figaretti
Lead Pastor
February 6, 2022

MY STORY

1. Why do you think you are here on this planet? What do you think your purpose is?
2. The disciples had walked with Jesus, witnessed His miracles, and experienced His teachings for three years, and yet they didn't at first believe Mary Magdalene or the two disciples who had walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus about Jesus being alive. What does this say to you? How does this speak to you as you work through your own doubts and struggles? What does this say about the grace God offers us through Jesus?
3. Chris said if we are all in on Jesus, then He is all in on us and will restore us as we follow Him. When you heard that what came to mind from your own life? How has Jesus restored you? How does He continue to restore you?
4. Jesus rebuked the disciples for their disbelief. Rebuke doesn't mean condemn (as Romans 8:1 tells us, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ). What then does it mean that Jesus rebuked them? How does Jesus rebuke you as you walk with Him? No one likes to be corrected, so how do you handle Jesus' rebukes?
5. Jesus calls us to pick up our cross and follow Him. If He is our Lord, then we adopt His teaching wholesale, not piecemeal, and we walk with Him. What does this look like in your life?
6. Jesus also understands that we are going to fall short as we follow Him, and He has amazing grace for us as we follow Him. How have you seen His grace play out in your life?
7. The eternal life Jesus calls us to starts in this life and goes through the next life. Have you thought of your life as eternal? What does that mean to you? When you think of that, how does it change the way you approach your time here?

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8. Chris said we are afraid of almost everything at first. Do you agree with that? Does that describe you? How do you get past your fear and go from taking those tentative first steps to the point where you can't be stopped?
9. Did you first come to church because someone invited you? How do you feel about the person who first invited you?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.

Read Mark 19:15-18, Matt 28:19-21, Acts 1:8

1. Do you see these verses as informational or as a command?
2. What is God saying to you as you read these verses and reflect on them? What are you doing with what Jesus tells us here? If you're not doing anything with it, why not? What needs to happen to cause you to view this as Jesus' command to you and follow it?
3. How have you seen God respond to you obeying these verses? Have you experienced the power of God as you've followed the Great Commission? Think of some specific experiences and share them with your group.

BRINGING IT HOME

1. We've been studying the book of Mark for the past year. Has God impressed anything on your heart as you took this adventure with Jesus? What changes have you made in your thinking? What changes have you made in your behavior? What discipline(s) have you adopted? What have you given up?

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2. Chris said that if we are only practicing spiritual disciplines but not sharing our faith that is a spiritual dead end. What do you think he means by that? Have you seen or experienced that? Are you at that dead end yourself? What do you do with this?

3. Following Jesus WILL take you out of your comfort zone. How have you experienced this? How has Jesus held true to His promise and stayed with you and empowered you as He's led you outside of your comfort zone?

4. 60% - 70% of Americans say they would attend church if invited by someone they know, 67% of Americans say they would not attend a new church by themselves, and 80% of Americans say they have never been invited to church by someone they know. What do you think of those statistics? Have you invited someone to church? Did they attend? What was the outcome?

5. The video of Penn Gillette ended with the question, "how much do you have to hate someone to not tell them you believe there's eternal life and a heaven and hell?" Penn is an atheist, but he still appreciated being given the Bible because it showed how much the giver cared about him personally. Do you care enough for the people in your life to risk feeling uncomfortable to share what God has done in your life and to invite them to church to hear the message of Jesus?

6. In light of this message and the Great Commission, what specifically will you do?

7. Who are the three people you will pray for by name? Will you also pray for the opportunity to share with each of them what God has done for you?

Your Next Steps are: 1) Come up with three people you will commit to pray for; write their names down somewhere you see regularly as a reminder. **2)** Pray for them. **3)** Pray that God will give you the opportunity to share your testimony with each of them.