

Good News: A Love Story

Hearing and believing the truth about God's love makes us free.

Opening Verse & Prayer

Read Aloud

Matthew 6:9-13 New King James Version

9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

[a]For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

- That's a very popular prayer that I'm sure many of you have heard. God's intention was not to start a religion, but to tell a story, a love story.
- God is a father that has a kingdom in which He wants a family to be together. But sin has separated us from Him, so He sent his Son. Jesus is also referred to as "the bread of life." So as we say give us our daily bread, and forgive our sins, Jesus is the one through whom we have forgiveness. This love He gives us also allows us to forgive others.
- Finally this world is full of temptation and we ask to be protected from it, and delivered from Satan, who seeks the destruction of our souls.
- God's Kingdom is forever, and every soul lives forever, but we must each decide to accept or reject this good news.

John 3:16 New King James Version

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- This is the gospel truth, a love story that you're a part of, an opportunity to be forever in the presence of God. It's life's most important decision, because it determines our destiny.
- The death of Jesus on the cross proves you personally, were a soul worth saving.

Prayer

True Love Stories

A Tale of Two Voices

- That first voice we can all hear, it's what drives us towards sin. The final result of sin is death, and eternal separation from everything good.
- How do I know it was evil? Led me to break the law. We've all broken the laws of man and the laws of God.
- I was living in sin and it was the perfect opportunity for the devil to take me out of here.
- The second voice was God. How do I know? Led me to stop breaking the law, and soon as I stopped speeding/sinching my life was spared.
- God's love saved me, even when I was doing wrong, but I had to allow it.
- Hearing God led to my life being saved, but it was obeying God that actually did it! I believed His voice and acted upon it.

A Divine Encounter

- Chief Dale Metzger Elida Police Department
- Our conversation led to his powerful testimony.

Seeking and Saving the Lost

- I must reiterate that none of this is about religion. Christ came on a mission and it wasn't to start church denominations, or for people to use His name to cause all kinds of hurt and abuse in this world.
- Jesus came for one reason only.
- **Luke 19:10 New Living Translation**
- For the Son of Man[a] came to seek and save those who are lost."

Luke 15:11-24 New Living Translation Parable of the Lost Son

11 To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons.

12 The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

13 “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.

- This is the way the majority of us treat God from our beginning.
- But instead of taking money from God and running off we take something far more valuable. Time!
- We may not say it out loud but we run off and do whatever we want with our lives until time runs out.

14 About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. 15 He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. 16 The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. 17 “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’

- The most important location on the face of this earth is not your favorite vacation spot or chair. It’s a place called the end of yourself, where we come to our senses.
- Columbus testimony.

20 “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. 21 His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.[a]’ 22 “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, 24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

- Nobody is ever too far gone from God that He won't come running after you. His love is real and it's for you!

John 4:1-30 New Living Translation Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

4 Jesus[a] knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John 2 (though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did). 3 So he left Judea and returned to Galilee. 4 He had to go through Samaria on the way. 5 Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. 7 Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." 8 He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. 9 The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans.[b] She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" 10 Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." 11 "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? 12 And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?" 13 Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." 15 "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water." 16 "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her. 17 "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— 18 for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!" 19 "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. 20 So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim,[c] where our ancestors worshiped?" 21 Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. 23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who

will worship him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” 25 The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” 26 Then Jesus told her, “I am the Messiah!”[d] 27 Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?” 28 The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 29 “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” 30 So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

- Remember Christ’s mission? To seek and save the lost!
- This woman was deep in sin and longing for a love even 5 husbands could not provide.
- But Jesus met her right where she was. He didn’t wait for her to clean her life up, or come to Him first.
- Many times we write ourselves out of God’s love story. We think we’re too far gone, or we reject Him before He can reject us.
- Hear me, He would not come to seek and save you if the plan was to reject you from the start.

Your Good News

Romans 10:5-17 New Living Translation Salvation Is for Everyone

5 For Moses writes that the law’s way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands.[a] 6 But faith’s way of getting right with God says, “Don’t say in your heart, ‘Who will go up to heaven?’ (to bring Christ down to earth). 7 And don’t say, ‘Who will go down to the place of the dead?’ (to bring Christ back to life again).” 8 In fact, it says, “The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart.”[b] And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: 9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. 11 As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.”[c] 12 Jew and Gentile[d] are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. 13 For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”[e]

14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? 15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”[f]

- For those of us who’ve given their lives to God, and have hearts filled with His love and light, there’s a duty to be the messengers of good news.

16 But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, “Lord, who has believed our message?”[g] 17 So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.