

Your story matters

Your Story, His Glory

“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.” Luke 1:1-4 (NIV)

We need to be reminded often that God is writing our story at this very moment -- and each crisis isn't the end -- it is only a chapter -- or maybe even just a paragraph -- a moment in time -- a moment in the story that was necessary to grow us and to change us and to make us stronger so we will move on to the better things which God has for us in the end.

* Luke says he wanted to write an orderly account of these things which happened to us -- in other words, Luke is telling us in the introduction to this gospel that he has a story -- he has a story that he wants us to hear -- it's a story that he not only heard from others, but that he was an eyewitness to -- a story that he saw with his eyes -- that he looked upon -- that he touched with his hands -- a story that happened to him.

*This story of Luke is not just an ordinary story -- it's the story of faith -- it's the story of Luke's faith -- the story of salvation -- Luke wants to tell us how God came to earth in the form of a man so that we could have fellowship with him -- so that we would know Him in a real and personal way -- so that we would have someone we could follow -- someone we could imitate and emulate in our actions -- someone who would go to the cross for us and pay the price for our sins so we could experience life with God forever.

*This story of Luke was written with a purpose in mind -- he wrote this story for Theophilus, so Theophilus would know beyond a shadow of a doubt that what he had been told -- that what he believed -- was true -- Luke wrote this down and said, "This happened -- I know the people it happened to -- I was part of this story -- I was there and I can tell you it's true -- and because I was there and because I am telling you it's true, you can trust in it -- you can believe it -- you can have faith in it."

What does this mean to us? What are we supposed to get from Luke's introduction to this gospel? What is the take-home message for today?

1. Everyone has a story.

2. We are Writing a Story of Faith.

3. Our story needs to be written with purpose.

We spend too much time focusing our energy and our resources on things that really don't matter -- and this keeps us drained emotionally and physically.

We need to reevaluate our passion and our purpose -- not to stop caring, but to stop caring about the nonessentials.

When you remember that each day you are writing a story of faith and that Christ is intimately involved in that story from the moment you first open your eyes in the morning until you lay your head down that night, your focus shifts.

Rather than worrying about ourselves and focusing on the nonessential part of life, our passion and our purpose shift to focus on Jesus -- we will begin to look for Him in our daily lives -- we will seek Him out and find where He is working and join Him in His redeeming work in this world today.

Jesus told us that every day we must die to self and pick up our cross and follow Him -- and by aligning our passion and His purpose in our lives together, we can put aside all the things of life that are hindering us in our walk with Jesus and we can maximize our participation in His story.

By focusing our passion and purpose on Christ every day, we can rest and relax in His presence -- we can rely more on Him and not ourselves. We can focus on what's truly important and let the lesser things that worry us so much, pass away.