

“THE REST OF THE STORY”

Acts 16:25-28

INTRODUCTION:

- A. No doubt you are familiar with Paul Harvey’s “The Rest of the Story.”
1. In those segments he will tell about a famous person or event and then say that he is going to tell you “The Rest of the Story.”
 2. **EXAMPLE:** Paul Harvey tells the story of Joe, who was born into a family of Sicilian immigrants, a family who had a 300-year history as fishermen. Joe’s dad was a fisherman. His brothers were fishermen. But Joe was made sick by the smell of raw fish and the motion of a rocking boat. In a family where the only acceptable way to earn a living was by fishing, Joe was a failure.
His dad used to refer to his son as “good for nothing.” Joe believed his dad. He believed that his attempts at other types of work were an admission of failure, but he just couldn’t stand the smell of the fishing business. One thing that Joe could do was play baseball. Giving up a field where he could not succeed, Joe DiMaggio moved to another field and became one of the great successes of baseball. And now you know...."The Rest of the Story."
- B. There are some events in the Bible that we know well, but sometimes if we will keep studying, we will learn “the rest of the story.”
- C. Today we will study four events (*stories*) in the Bible and then see “the rest of the story.”
By using the word “story” I am not implying that these are fictional events. They are real events, but for the sake of the lesson today, we will use the word “story.”
- D. These will teach four separate lessons that we need to learn:

I. ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL, 1 Kings 18:20-39.

- A. THE STORY:
1. And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word. **1 Kings 18:21.**
 2. The contest on Matthew. Carmel with the 450 prophets of Baal,
 3. God displayed His great power, **v.38.**
 4. **RESULT:** Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!” **1 Kings 18:39.**
- B. THE REST OF THE STORY:
1. After this great victory, what did Elijah do?

2. Jezebel's message to Elijah: "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."
1 Kings 19:2.
3. Elijah "arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah,"
1 Kings 19:3.
4. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, **1 Kings 19:4.**
5. God finally told him: "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him." **1 Kings 19:18.**

C. LESSONS FROM THE REST OF THE STORY:

1. There are highs and lows in all of life, including spiritual life.
2. No matter the situation, God will always be with you.
3. There is a time to stop feeling sorry for yourself and do something.

II. GEHAZI, THE SERVANT OF ELISHA, 2 Kings 5:1-14.

A. THE STORY: Naaman was cured of the terrible disease of *LEPROSY*,

1. His condition: a case of leprosy, described as a "living death," *verse 1.*
2. The maid from Israel who suggested he go to Israel for help, *verse 2.*
3. His reluctance to obey what he was told by Elisha, *verses 10-12.*
4. His healing when he did obey, *verses 13-14.*

B. THE REST OF THE STORY:

1. His offer of riches to Elisha, *verse 15.*
2. Elisha declined his offer, *verse 16.*
3. Gehazi, his servant saw an opportunity and went after Naaman, **v. 20-21.**
4. He told a lie to get two talents of silver and two changes of clothing, **v.23-25.**
5. When confronted by Elisha, Gehazi lied about what he had done, **v.25-26.**
6. Gehazi was cursed with leprosy, **v.27.**

C. LESSONS FROM THE REST OF THE STORY:

1. One lie often leads to another.
2. It is easy to allow "things of this world" cloud your vision and blind you to what you need to do.
3. Covetousness, greed and materialism are not pleasing to God and will be *PUNISHED.*
4. "More people will be in hell because of covetousness than because of murder."
5. "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and *covetousness , which is idolatry.*" *Col 3:5.*

III. THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER, Acts 16:16-33.

A. THE STORY:

1. Paul and Silas had been cast into prison, *Acts 16:16-24.*

2. While in prison, they sang and prayed, **v.25.**
3. An earthquake opened the doors, **v.26.**
4. The jailer thought his prisoners had gotten away, and prepared to take his own life, **v.27,** before Paul stopped him, **v.28.**
5. His question: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" **v.30.**
6. Paul's answer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." **v.31.**
7. Many people stop there, but let's see . . .

B. THE REST OF THE STORY:

1. What happened after they told him that he needed to believe? "Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house." **Verse 32.**
2. AFTER they "spoke the word of the Lord" to them, what happened? "And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized." **Verse 33.**
3. Why did Paul tell him to believe when asked how to be saved?
 - a. Because this man had no knowledge of Jesus and needed to first believe in Him before he could obey Him.
 - b. Contrast that with the Ethiopian Eunuch who wasn't told to believe...he already did through his reading of Isaiah and Philip's preaching to him, Acts 8:32-ff.
4. ILLUSTRATION of How many miles to Huntsville, AL?
 - If I ask someone in Martin: 235 miles, go to Jackson, Corinth, Tuscumbia, etc.
 - If I ask someone in Jackson: 175 miles, go to Corinth, Tuscumbia, etc.
 - If I ask someone in Corinth: 120 miles, go to Tuscumbia, etc.
 - If I ask someone in Tuscumbia: 70 miles to Huntsville.
5. Why different answers? I would be further along my trip.
6. AFTER the teaching and baptism: "Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household." **Verse 34.**
7. As far as we know, NONE of the thousands of converts in the book of Acts ever ate a bite, drank a drop, or slept a wink before being baptized.

C. LESSONS:

1. I need to see ALL that God says on a matter to fully understand it.
2. I don't need to stop reading too soon.
3. BAPTISM is always a part of God's Plan of Salvation

CONCLUSION:

- A. Imagine with me that we "*DRIVE A PEG*" at this point in time, with all that you have done in your life.
- B. That is your story.
- C. What happens after this point is "the REST of the story."
- D. What will be "The Rest of YOUR Story?"

Ricky Phillips
Martin Church of Christ

www.martinchurhofchrist.org