



Links Players

Evangelism - The Cosmic Drama

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us.... (Luke 1:1-4, ESV)

I rarely miss the beginning of the Masters. Because I am married to a “Saint” who supports this annual obsession, I am also riveted to the television from the opening notes of the Master’s theme song—“Augusta,”— to the presentation of the Green Jacket in The Butler Cabin.

Whatever takes place at Augusta National this year will only be truly appreciated if it is understood within the long arc of its storied past. As Jim Nantz says about the Masters, it is “A tradition unlike any other.” And for anything to become a “tradition,” it must have a meaningful history.

Analogously, to be seized by the weight of the gospel, one must know the larger story—the story promised in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament. As they say, “history is prologue.”

In evangelism, we tell a story with a beginning, a developing plotline, and an ending. For instance, when Moses narrates the story of Adam and Eve, he is not merely writing history but foreshadowing things to come. God promises that one day the “seed of the woman” will suffer a blow to his heel, but in doing so, he will crush the head of the serpent. This foreshadows Christ’s triumph over Satan at Calvary.

In the Abrahamic narrative, God promises that one day all the nations of the world will be blessed through his “seed.” Jesus said, “Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad” (John 8:56). In short, Abraham foreknew the Messiah would be the “heir of the whole world” (Romans 4:13).

As we arrive at the narrative of King David, the story unfolds even more. We discover that David’s “seed” will be the King with an everlasting throne with all his enemies defeated (2 Samuel 7: Psalm 72).

In short, Jesus destroys the enemy (Satan), takes back the land (the world), and ascends the throne (has all authority). If space allowed, we could demonstrate that he “gets the girl”—his bride. That’s a story worth telling!

You might ask, “How is this relevant to my life at the club?” First and foremost, God keeps all his promises! Consequently, we can go into the harvest knowing he will empower us to tell the story and see men and women converted to Christ.

Additionally, if we fail to know and believe the larger story, we inadvertently try to shoehorn Jesus and his plans into the pre-set narrative of our lives, often overlooking our stewardship to “tell the story.” And attempting to squeeze his plans into the narrow confines of our limited understanding of life is like forcing Shaq’s feet (size 23) into Cinderella’s slippers.

Thus, the most important thing for Christians is knowing, believing, and aligning our lives with his ongoing story unfolding in history. There, we find the boldness, the power, and the words to “share the gospel” at the club or anywhere else.

Prayer: Jesus! May we find our place in your story rather than trying to squeeze you into ours.

READING - 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 Peter 1:10-12

OPENING QUESTIONS:
Talk among yourselves about the importance of stories in our lives.

1. In 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Paul instructs Timothy to continue in the “sacred writings” of the Old Testament. What do these verses teach us about the importance of the Old Testament? Discuss.

2. In 2 Peter 1:19-21, Peter teaches us that his experience with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration confirms the Old Testament. He exhorts us to “pay attention” to Old Testament. Why? Also, read 1 Peter 1:10-12.
