

The Story Series
Goodwill
03/19/22
Newport News

Opening

-Pastor Justin...

-Pastor Riley...

>I love how God takes our earthly pursuits and leverages them for a Kingdom work!

>He used to hunt people who were his enemy...now he hunts for people who are at enmity with God that they might be rescued by Jesus!

-This series: The Bible tells a story and you have a part to play. (talk about this some)

-And although all our parts will be dramatically different, at some point we will all share the same moment, the moment we discover the goodwill of Jesus.

Introduction

-(tell spring break story of being stranded on the way back and meeting Hank)

-All of us at some point in our lives have been dependent on the goodwill of another person.

>**goodwill: benevolence, compassion, goodness, kindness, consideration, charity**

>**Goodwill, in its purest form, is not dependent on the merit of the recipient. Goodwill is predicated on the character of the giver.**

-Luke 2:10-14 (NLT)

-Luke 2:14 (KJV)

-Luke 2:14 (NIV)

-I have good news for you. What was true 2,000 years ago when these angels spoke is still true today. Because of Jesus' goodwill toward us, we can know the peace that He offers!

Stranded

-(tell the story of being stuck in the desert & show pic)

-That feeling of being stranded...

- **Helpless**
- **Isolated**
- **Vulnerable**
- **Frustrated**

-Some of you feel that now...on the inside...and you can't figure out why

- You love your spouse
- There isn't anything you wouldn't do for your children
- You work hard at your job
- You give to others in need
- You're a neighbor people know they can call on for help
- You are a loyal friend
- You're a faithful family member to your parents and siblings
- You are a good and moral person

-You can't satisfy a Heavenly hunger with an earthly table.

-From the moment you and I were born into this world, our deepest need has always been to know God and to be known by Him.

-Luke 2:14 (KJV)

-This need for intimacy with God is THE PEACE that the angels were talking about at Jesus' birth!

-Matthew 13:44-46 (it's the treasure...it's the pearl)

- We don't deserve it...
- We can't earn it...
- We aren't entitled to it...
- And unlike the parable, we CAN'T buy it! (there is a price)
- AND we are stranded in this life without it!

-Because of Jesus' goodwill toward us there is hope!

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>*Goodwill, in its purest form, is not dependent on the merit of the recipient. Goodwill is predicated on the character of the giver.*

Rescued

-(show image of us and God separated)

-(tell story of Mitch at the well sharing The Gospel) (show 4 other pics)

-(show image of us and God separated)

-Thirst, Hunger, and Ache (all ppl for all time)

- John 4:11-14
- John 6:26-27,34-35 (tell story of Wayyo and feeding street kids)
- John 3:1-4 **(tell story of holding Jesse) (Brennan Thaler Hall)**

-Have you been rescued? (thirst, hunger, acceptance)

-Do you have this peace that Jesus promises?

-Is your life being built around a pursuit of knowing God and being known by Him?

-(show image with cross between) remember Matthew 13?

>Jesus is benevolent, compassionate, good, kind, considerate, and charitable.

>Jesus' goodwill is not dependent on our merit. His goodwill is predicated on the character of His own heart.

-John 14:6

-The Bible tells a story and you have a part to play. And although all our parts will be dramatically different, at some point we will all share the same moment, the moment we discover the goodwill of Jesus.

Band

-Would you let me pray a prayer that maybe gives voice to what you are feeling?

-If that was you...we are going to be here at the front during this last song and after...if you are online you can request prayer...