

Story Time With Jesus, Tales of the Kingdom: Wk 1
June 21 - 22, 2025

Good evening/morning. We going be talking story with Jesus. In every culture and language group, storytelling is universal. And I wanna invite you to one of the main teaching methods of Jesus. In our six wk series, we'll cover some of the stories of Jesus. Those stories of Jesus told, are called? Yes, parables, simple stories used to teach a spiritual lesson. And these stories are like bridges to understanding for some, and at the same time dams, hiding deeper meanings from others. Some of these stories even blasted the religious leaders of that time.

In Hawaii we like talking story, sharing our personal experiences. And we get drawn in as we hear someone's story and we can connect deeply because we can see ourselves in those stories. And Jesus was the master talk story teller teacher as he drew people in by his stories that cut to heart of those whose hearts are open to listen and learn.

2000 years ago, these stories were told in the biblical setting of that time and they immediately got the attention of all those who heard them teaching important lessons of his Kingdom. Yet, even 2000 years later, they still convey meaning to the listeners today.

And speaking of stories, almost half of the Bible is comprised of stories, narratives, and history. In fact 44%.

Why stories? People seem to crave stories. It's why we read books, watch movies, and get excited to tell others what happened to us at the store last

week. We love stories because we live in one. And some of your stories are filled with drama. You know your story! And you know some of the stories of those with you! Wouldn't you say it's drama!

We can relate to the biblical stories because those people lived in a world full of messy, sinful people with the same issues that we struggle with today. And stories invite us to participate. By engaging our imagination, we find ourselves in the stories, connecting with our emotions and our thoughts. Many times, calling us to some kind of action.

So let me open up with one story. Now that we have coed softball, and I went to the first practice. And for those who don't know. Baseball was my life. I gave my life to this sport. I ate, slept, even pooped baseball in my younger years. But after not playing for years, I came home not just tired. I was exhausted. I'm out of baseball shape. I used to workout at home with my daughter, but not any more.

Cuz now started this F45 training. You heard about that. F45 is a fitness community offering high-intensity group training classes that combine HIIT, circuit training, and functional movements. 45 minutes workout focusig on [functional strength](#) and cardio, with a variety of class types designed to challenge different fitness levels. And Kanoe invited me to try cuz had this Father's Day free trial. So said, I betta lissen my body, and try this out once. I go dea, the worker said, oh sorry we don't have that anymore. So how much fo one day, \$25. Dass expensive. But we get this two wk trial only \$49. So I do the math. So I said ok. I figure, ah, I'm in not so bad shape. I go, before the workout start, I look around, get people of all shape and size and I tell myself, I goin handle. I started doing the exercises, and pushed hard, cuz I get um, at first, then, flat tire. I was gasping fo air and nobody wen care. By the end, I couldn't even finish some of the exercises.

This was a message from God. Earl, no make tantaran. No act like you get um. You betta lissen yoa body. Cuz yoa body screaming at you that if you no get in shape now, you goin get hurt in softball, hamstring injury, pull

your calf, or even worse ACL or broken achilles! You tink and act like you in your 30s. But my body screaming at me that you one ole fut now. So you betta listen yo a body and get back into shape.

Long story short! I figure eh, I wen sign up for this two wk trial, so get your butt butt in shape. So I've been going!

Cuz, let me ask you this question. How many of you wanna be better Christians, better husbands, better wives, better kids (well most of our kids are at camp) better friends? Well, I'd say it starts with listening to your heart. I had to listen to my body and I was out of shape. Now all the things I just asked you about is a heart issue.

Cuz God is trying to teach you stuff to be better, but for some of you, not goin mention names, your heart not strong enough fo handle the truth. As I quote a famous line in A Few Good Men, you can't handle the truth. Your heart needs to get in shape for learning. For some of us. And it starts there.

That's why I'll start with the first parable that Jesus uses and it's a model for all the other parables that he tells.

Part of the power of Storying Scripture is the listening process. The Bible often uses the word "hear" but how seldom does it uses the word "read"? Bible scholars tell us the Bible is really a book designed to be listened to, not to primarily be read by an individual (which wasn't even practical until the printing press was invented and Bibles eventually became more plentiful).

Ok, so are you ready to listen up real good cuz I goin test to see how good your listening skills. Are you ready?

I goin tell you da story. And just listen good. In fact, the story is prepared fo you in the half sheet notes on your seat with questions. You can use later. But for now just listen cuz I goin test you!

(Keynote)

1Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore. 2He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

3 “Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. 4As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. 5Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. 6But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn’t have deep roots, it died. 7Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. 8Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!” 9Then he said, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.” (Mark 4:1 - 9 NLT).

(seperate Keynote slide)

1. What did the farmer go out to do?
2. What happened to the seeds that fell:
 - on the path?
 - on rocky soil?
 - among the thorns?
 - on good soil?

What was the outcome of the seeds that fell on good soil?

Turn to one another and answer these questions. How many of you have heard this story before? Good. How many of you wanna hear what happened next?

I’m gonna read this next part in the context of how it was told. Cuz Jesus didn’t share this part with the crowd, it was later when Jesus was alone with his twelve disciples and the others who came close to him, that he told this. But before I read this. I ask this questions, how many of you here are Jesus’ disciples? Okay, den this is especially for your ears to hear.

(KEYNOTE)

10 Later, when Jesus was alone with the twelve disciples and with the others who were gathered around, they asked him what the parables meant.

11 He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secret of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables for everything I say to outsiders, 12 so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled:

'When they see what I do,
they will learn nothing.

When they hear what I say,
they will not understand.

Otherwise, they will turn to me
and be forgiven.'

13 Then Jesus said to them, "If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables? 14 The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others. 15 The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. 16 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 17 But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. 18 The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, 19 but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. 20 And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" (Mark 4:10 - 20 NLT).

You wen lissen good? If you did, answer these questions:

(separate KEYNOTE slide)

- According to Jesus, what does the seed represent?
- Who is the farmer in this parable?
- What do the different types of soil represent?
- What are some of the reasons why the seed didn't grow in some places?
- What makes the good soil different from the other types?

You see, Jesus reserved the key truths of his kingdom to those who drew close to him and to others in a small group setting. There are many small group settings in our church to grow. And maybe it's like hearing a broken record from me and others, "If you wanna grow, get with others who wanna grow and dialog, share, and care with you"

I think many people hear and do nothing. God wants our attention, but we fail to really listen.

It's a matter of the condition of our heart: Is our heart soft, open, fertile and not one hard heart to receive. How many of you are convinced that God is trying to speak to us, guide us, help us and encourage us to live better lives?

And yes, God, through his Holy Spirit, speaks to us all the time using many ways to do so, his word, circumstances, others, and he'll speak to you in those moments you open your heart to listen.

Reminds me about the story of da surfer guy that was training for the Eddie. He went out on one huge day. Waimea was going off. His friend told him, maybe best to sit this one out, nah, nah, nah, I can handle. So we charged him, and went out. And we took some drops, and caught some good ones, well those were small ones, but then the big sets came in, took the drop and wiped out. Well, the jet skiers water rescue guys came to his aid and said just on, the surfer said nah, nah, nah, I get it, go save the other guys that we wipe out. And they left him. He gets back on his board and he tries to paddle out, then the set of the day came, now he's in the white wash, held under. And in trouble. Good thing had the helicopter Air one HPD around. And came for him. But he waved them off cuz he didn't wanna leave his treasured long board behind. Boom another wave came and he went mahke. You heard this story. Anyway, in heaven, he said to God, "God, how come you never save me, I pray to you everyday. Well, you one stubborn bugger. I spoke to you through your friends, but you never like listen, I tried to save you with jet skiers, and even brought the helicopter. But you chose to go it alone.

And I pray you don't go it alone like this surfer. Cuz God, he like get our attention in all kinds of ways. We just gotta pause to really listen.

God scatters his good seed over you. And poho your heart is not prepared to receive it cuz maybe hard, or shallow, or get too many weeds that choke um out. But he like us get fertile hearts, soft soil, ready fo receive his seed of truth so that we can learn and grow.

What is good seed of truth has God been trying to sow in your heart? And maybe he's using so many ways to do so, but jalike the surfer, you go nah, nah, nah and you not heeding his seed of truth. Brah, God is trying fo save you, set you free, help you, and guide you, but you making deaf ear. No make deaf ear no moa. Open your heart to Jesus' truth.

James tells this. <https://www.bible.com/audio-bible/76/JAS.1.HPB>
(AUDIO 3:12 - 4:48) (KEYNOTE TEXT)

18God wen plan dis fo us: He tell us guys wass true. Az how he give us his kine life. From all da tings he wen make hea inside da world, he make us guys spesho kine, jalike us da bestes fruits, da kine dat da farma guy pick firs fo make present to God.

19Eh, my good frenz! No foget dis: You guys know dis stuff awready. Weneva you hear somebody talk, erybody gotta lissen real good firs befo dey talk. Az how dey no get all huhu real fas. 20Cuz wen you come all huhu, dat no help you fo do da right kine stuff God tell you suppose to do. 21So den, clean up yoa life! Throw out all da bad kine stuff dat stay all ova da place! No get big head. Mo betta lissen wat God tell. He wen put da tings he tell inside you guys head awready, an dass strong enuff fo get you guys outa da bad kine stuff you stay in.

22An no ony lissen da tings God tell. You guys gotta do um! Cuz if you ony lissen an no do notting, you ony stay bulai you. 23Da guy dat ony like hear, an no like do notting, he jalike one guy dat check out his face inside da mirror. 24An wen da guy go way, awready he no can no foget wat kine face he get. 25But eryting God tell his peopo dey gotta do, dass perfeck, cuz dass wat can hemo you from all da bad kine stuff. So den, if you go check out real good da Rules from God, an no foget wat you wen hear, an stay do um, eh! you goin feel real good inside cuz you stay do um.

KEYNOTE SLIDE of This flower



God make all a us spesho kine jalike da bestes fruits. Us gotta lissen good. And have the right, soft, fertile heart to take in the seed of truth that he wants to plant in our lives. The seed is good, the farmer's intentions are pure, he loves you. The question is not if God speaks. Cuz he's speaking all the time. The question is how is your condition of our heart to receive when he speaks His very words. Let's take heed from James, no ony lissen da tings God tell. You guys gotta do um! Cuz if you ony lissen an no do notting, you ony stay bulai you. Let's not deceive ourselves.

I'm sure God has been trying to get your attention. He does all the time. And I hope we no make deaf ear. I hope we can prepare our hearts, to make it fertile ground for his truth to speak and that we'd take action on what he's telling us to do or not to do. And when you do, you watch, you'll see, God seed of truth, produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" For you and for the world to see.

Amen, Dass it!

I'm gonna invite some of the worship team to come and lead us into a time of response through this special song. **Speak the Word.**

End with the story of God knocking on the door of our heart. Don't make deaf ear.

I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. 20 "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

Benediction:

Invite back to next wk as Pastor Glenn will talk story with us with another story of Jesus.

Story Telling w/Jesus: Wk 1 Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed

1 Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore. 2He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

3 "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. 4As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. 5Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. 6But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. 7Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. 8Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as

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Listening Test

1. What did the farmer go out to do?

Where did the different seeds fall?

What happened to the seeds that fell:

- on the path?
- on rocky soil?
- among the thorns?
- on good soil?

What was the outcome of the seeds that fell on good soil?

2. According to Jesus, what does the seed represent?

Who is the farmer in this parable?

What do the different types of soil represent?

What are some of the reasons why the seed didn’t grow in some places?

What makes the good soil different from the other types?

3. What seed is Jesus trying to plant in you right now?

Any “thorns” in your life that are choking out that seed?

What is God telling you to do to receive that seed well so that it can produce one big harvest?

Jesus said, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." What do you think He meant by that?