

© THE METANARRATIVE OF THE BIBLE

I am reminded of a story my dad told me as a child that made a lasting impression on me. He told me about a young boy who made his own little sailboat. The little boy painted the sailboat in his favourite colours and would spend hours playing with this sailboat in the shallow waters of a huge lake near their home. One day as he played the wind came up and blew the boat out of the reach of the boy and as he stood there he could only watch with tear filled eyes as the boat blew further and further away until he could see it no longer.

Saddened by the loss of his sail boat he reluctantly returned home, but day after day he would return to the water's edge in the hope of being reunited with his boat. One Saturday morning he went to town with his dad as usual and as he walked down the street he looked into the window of a second hand shop and there in the centre of the display stood his boat. He could not believe his eyes and he ran in and very excitedly told the shopkeeper that he was the proud owner of that boat and that he would be much obliged if the shopkeeper would take it out of the display and hand it back to him. The shopkeeper said "well son, I am sorry to hear your story but if you want it you will have to buy it."

Once again the tears welled up but the young boy managed to say "please don't sell it, I'll be back, I want it back". That week the young boy worked hard to raise the money by doing chores, he even emptied his money box and the next Saturday he was back at the second hand shop. He proudly handed over his money and the shopkeeper handed him the sailboat.

As the young boy walked out of the shop, clutching the sailboat he said "now you are doubly mine! First I made you and now I bought you!"

This simple story gives us a glimpse of the Bible's story line. It gives us an indication of who we are, where we come from, what went wrong and what do we do now.

Who are we?

Genesis 1:1. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis begins by affirming that God is the creator of everything that exists. Here, the Bible is describing the process of creation as God imposing form on the chaos and then filling that form. We therefore were created by God, we belong to him and we live in God's world. It is also very clear that God enjoyed spending time with man.

What went wrong?

Genesis 3 answers the question, —What went wrong? The problem is that evil has entered the human race. In the same way that the wind separated the boy and his sailboat, sin brought separation between God and man. God did not abandon us, we drifted away from him. We are no longer living in the realm God intended for us. In a sense sin reversed the process of creation and caused chaos to return. We have lost the presence of God.

What do we do now?

As a matter of fact there is nothing we can do from our side to reconcile us to our creator because God is so holy and His standards are so high. Much like the sailboat in the shop window we were left high and dry by the consequence of sin in our lives, that is separation from God.

What did God do?

This is where God stepped to the fore and drew salvations plan on the canvas of life with a brush dipped in an immeasurable bucket of love. Everything that was required for us to be reconciled to God was done in and through Jesus Christ God's son.

Let's have a closer look at God's salvation plan:

God exhibits his love!

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16).

God (*the greatest giver*) gave His Son (*the greatest gift*) to whoever believes (*the greatest amount of people*) so that they can have eternal life. (*The greatest amount of time*)

God not only loves us with a love that will never cease, but He wants to bless our lives and make it full and complete. He offer us life filled with His goodness here and now as well as eternal life in His presence

We are sinful by nature:

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)

This verse confirms that the sinful act off Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden has had an effect on all of mankind by separating us all from God. It is in our understanding of this truth that we realize our need for a savior.

As with the sailboat, sin comes with a price tag.

“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

Although inflation might fluctuate the return on investment for sin remains the same – death! The only alternative is to receive the free gift of God in Christ and through that experience forgiveness for sin and life everlasting in the presence of God.

Christ paid the price.

“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

God has set a standard for the forgiveness of sin. The innocent will be sacrificed for the sake of the guilty and that there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. Due to our inability to pay the price for sin that would appease God, Christ had to come as sinless, spotless Lamb of God and die in our place to pay the price that God demanded so that we could be reconciled to God.

Salvation is a free gift:

Eph 2:8-9. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

There is nothing a man can do to make God love him more. Neither is there anything man can do that will make God love him less. You cannot work for God’s amazing grace. It is a free gift and you have to simply receive it.

Rom 10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

How can I be put right with a Holy God?

Joh 1:12 “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become Children of God”

I must receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. When I accept what Jesus has done for me by his Substitutionary death on the cross I become a child of God.

You do not have to search for Jesus because he is not lost. He is ready and waiting to be received into your life.

You can invite Jesus into your life right now by praying a simple prayer of forgiveness to God. If you are not familiar with prayer why don't you follow this line of prayer?

Dear God I do realize that I am a sinner in desperate need of your forgiveness. I now believe that Jesus died in my place to pay the price for my sin and that he rose victoriously from the dead. I now invite you Jesus to come into my life as my Lord and Savior as I submit my whole life to you. Thank you for making me your child. Amen.