

LIVING THE TEXT

2 Timothy 2:1-2

Based on the October 29, 2017, Fairway CRC morning message:
“GOD FINDS WAYS TO TELL HIS STORY”

WELCOME!

Most of us love stories, from the classic fairytale Jack-and-the-Beanstalk to contemporary TV shows and movies like “This Is Us” and “Star Wars”. Some of us are even good at telling stories ourselves!

Throughout the bible God uses hundreds of human authors who wrote over a period of hundreds of years in many different places to tell ONE STORY: The true and eternal story of how he is rebuilding His broken Creation. Jesus is the main character in that great story, but that story also features all of us. After all, our broken lives are part of the Creation that God is rebuilding through Jesus!

The text that we look at in this study is one in which God tells us how he plans to keep telling that story. It’s a description of God’s strategy and an invitation to be part of it.

WHAT DOES GOD SAY IN THE TEXT?

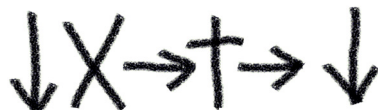
1. Read Romans 15:17-21. What is Paul saying about himself? What story does Paul tell? To whom does he tell it?
2. Read Acts 16:1-5. What does Luke, the author of Acts, tell us about Timothy? Also read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5. What does Paul, the author of this text, tell us about Timothy?
3. Now take a few moments to read and reflect on our text, 2 Timothy 2:1-2. We read here about a story, the gospel (all the things that Timothy has heard Paul say), that was first given by Jesus to Paul, then by Paul to Timothy, and now by Timothy to reliable people, and soon by those reliable people to others, to others, to others. What is the connection between this “chain” of story tellers and Jesus’ words in Matthew 28:16-20?
4. Why does Paul call Timothy his “son” in verse 1? See also 1:2.
5. Who are the “many witnesses” that Paul talks about in verse 2?
6. Who are the “reliable witnesses” that Paul talks about later in verse 2? Hint: See a group of people in 1:15 who are not so reliable.
7. Who are the “others” that Paul talks about in verse 2? What is Paul’s goal for them?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO US?

8. Draw a chain, complete with several links, on a piece of paper. Then label the links in that chain with the people mentioned in question 3 above. Somewhere near the end of that chain label a link for yourself. How did you get to hear God's beautiful story of restoration? In other words, how did you get to be a link? Who were the "reliable people" who told the story to you?
9. At one time you were part of the "others". Now, through this text, God is inviting you to become a story teller, one of the "reliable people" who tells God's story to "others". You are not supposed to be the final link in the chain (see Colossians 4:5-6)! How do you feel about that? What parts of the story are easier to tell? What parts are more challenging?
10. There was a time when the church prohibited people from having copies of the bible or even reading it in their own language. It would have been impossible to be story tellers in that situation! Aren't you glad that we are not in that situation today? What are some of the roadblocks to storytelling that we experience today? How does God lead us through or around them?

HOW WILL I RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD?

11. Do you have a version of God's story that is short enough to tell people in a minute or two? If not then take some time to write up a draft of one together (you could use the six symbols that I have shared with the congregation a few times—see below). It doesn't have to be perfect but it should give people a clear sense that God is on the move, restoring what was broken at the Fall. Later fit yourself into that story. After all, you are part of the Creation that God is rebuilding.
12. Sometimes God calls us to tell His story through our lives and acts of mercy for others. What specific acts will you take this week to tell God's story of grace for brokenness?



IN THE CHAIR...

We encourage you to spend time every day in your favorite chair, reading the bible and reflecting on what God is saying to you through it. This week we invite you to read and reflect on 2 Timothy 2:1-2.

- What is God teaching you about Himself in this text?
- What is God teaching you about His mission in this text?
- What is God teaching you about your role in His mission in this text?