

Faith Life Weekly 11/30/07 R.F.

Reflections:

What is your “Holy Story”?

Jesus liked to tell stories: “There once was man who had two sons...” (Luke 15).

Sometimes we can read a story about a character in the Bible. It may remind us of our story.

“And Jacob wrestled with the “man of God” until the break of dawn.” (Genesis 32). Ruth went with her mother in law to Bethlehem. (Ruth 1) . It is fair to ask, “Which character in the Bible best represents us?”, or this question, “Of all the players in the “Holy Story”, which would you have liked to have been?”

The thing is they are all human. They are like us. No matter how much we like to put them up on a pole, they are just like you and I. Hey, we have our high points and our low points just like them. The characters of the Bible are no better and no greater than you and I. But I know for certain that in heat of battle I would like to have a sling shot shooter David by my side. And in the moment of Jesus' visiting, I would like to have inquisitive Zachaeus or Mary by my side. Hey, I'd even go with Nicodemus, even though he was a bit sneaky coming around at night so that no one would see him.

“What is your story”?

Some time ago Ruth Graham Bell died. It was cause for me to review her story. Ruth was the wife of Billy Graham. But more than that Ruth was her own person. She had a “Holy Story” to tell. When I was on sabbatical a few years ago I included Ruth's' diary – snippets of it any way, little stories of her life, as part of my daily regimen of devotional reading and reflections. She had an amazing story. When she was a little girl, her parents who were missionaries in China, shipped her off by boat to another country altogether for Christian boarding school. She wrote about crying herself to sleep for many seasons. I cannot even imagine that. Then she told stories about sneaking out at night, her and her fiends to hang out together. Hah! Very Human I'd say. The one story that captured me the best was the story she told about Franklin who has stepped in for his Dad at the Graham Evangelism ministry. Franklin was a tough kid to raise. One time when Franklin and his sisters and mother Ruth were traveling somewhere by car, Franklin was causing problems. His mother Ruth, asked him kindly him to settle down and if he didn't she would stop the car and put him in the trunk. Can you guess what happened? I think Franklin learned a good lesson from that one. But you get the feeling that Ruth had her own story to share. She didn't live in the shadow of her husband, Billy. Hers was a “Holy Story” as well.

Today, consider your own “Holy Story”. If you were to die today, what would your story be?

Which Biblical character are you?

Do you know something? Jesus likes to tell your story as well.

Song:

“Deep enough to Dream”, by Chris Rice

Listen to a sample at:

☐ www.amazon.com/Deep-Enough-Dream-Chris-Rice/dp/B000005OG9

www.Christianbook.com

**Lazy summer afternoon
Screened-in porch and nothin' to do
I just kicked off my tennis shoes
Slouchin' in a plastic chair
Rakin' my fingers through my hair
I close my eyes and I leave 'em there**

And I yawn, and sigh, and slowly fade away

Deep enough to dream in brilliant colors I have never seen
Deep enough to join a billion people for a wedding feast
Deep enough to reach out and touch the face of the One who made me
And oh, the love I feel, and oh the peace
Do I ever have to wake up

Awakened by a familiar sound
A clumsy fly is buzzin' around
He bumps the screen and he tumbles down
He gathers about his wits and pride
And tries again for the hundredth time
'Cause freedom calls from the other side
And I smile and nod, and slowly drift away

Deep enough to dream in brilliant colors I have never seen
Deep enough to join a billion people for a wedding feast
Deep enough to reach out and touch the face of the One who made me
And oh, the love I feel, and oh the peace
Do I ever have to wake up

'Cause peace is pouring over my soul
See the lambs and the lions playin'
I join in and I drink the music
Holiness is the air I'm breathin'
My faithful heroes break the bread and answer all of my questions
Not to mention what the streets are made of
My heart's held hostage by this love

And these brilliant colors I have never seen
I join a billion people for a wedding feast
I reach out and touch the face of the One who made me
I'm deep enough to dream in brilliant colors I have never seen
Deep enough to join a billion people for a wedding feast
Deep enough to reach out and touch the face of the One who made me
And oh, the love I feel, and oh the peace
Do I ever have to wake up
Do I ever have to wake up
Do I really have to wake up now

Clumsy Fly Music (ASCAP)

Prayer:

“God, you have blessed us with the Holy Story. Help us make that story our story. Help us tell the story. Enable us this day to see ourselves written into the pages of your story. Amen.”

R.F.