The Story: Chapter Sixteen

The Beginning of the End

*Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.****5****For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.****6****But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+7&version=ESV#fen-ESV-28082c)*]****7****What then shall we say?* ***That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin.*** *For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”* Romans 7:4-7

**What is the greatest sin?**

1. The greatest sin is to **fear, love & trust** anything more than God.
   1. **Idolatry.**
   2. Colossians 3:5
   3. Psalm 135:15
   4. Jonah 2:8
   5. “Idolatry is seeking **security** and **meaning** in someone or something other than **God**.”
   6. “If you want to follow Jesus because He will give you a better life, that’s **IDOLATRY**.”
2. The charges against the Israelites:
   1. They **worshipped** other gods. (*The Story*, p. 219)
   2. They did not **trust** the LORD their God. (*The Story*, p. 220)
   3. **Idolatry.**
3. The judgement is **permanent**.

**What is the greatest challenge?**

1. The greatest challenge is to **trust** God when it doesn’t make **sense** to do so.
   1. King Hezekiah (*The Story*, p. 220)
      1. Son of Ahaz (2nd Kings 16)
      2. **Leave** things as they **are**. OR
      3. Be **faithful** to the **directives** and **desires** of God.
      4. His challenge was **personal**.
   2. Supreme Commander of the Assyrian Army (*The Story*, p. 221)
      1. Attacked Hezekiah’s **character**.
      2. Attacked Hezekiah’s **faith in God**.
      3. Offered Hezekiah a **bargain**. (Genesis 3)
   3. King Hezekiah (*The Story*, p. 223)
      1. His prayer was an expression of **faith.**
      2. He didn’t **work** up to or for something.
      3. He **rested**.

**What about the prophet Isaiah**?

1. His name means “Yahweh Saves”.
2. Isaiah’s ministry lasted for 53 years (Uzziah – Manasseh)
3. Isaiah: **Law** leads to **grace** results in **faithfulness**. (*The Story*, p. 224)
4. Isaiah’s message:
   1. The people **rebelled** against God (Isaiah 1:2-9).
   2. The people engaged in **empty** religion (Isaiah1:10-20).
   3. The people failed to do God’s **will**. (Isaiah 1:23)
   4. Micah 6:8
5. Isaiah’s Point:
   1. All people are broken by sin: cannot do the **will** of God.
   2. All people need a **savior**.
6. Isaiah’s Prophecies:

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| **Prophecy** | **Fulfillment** |
| Isaiah 52:13  Isaiah 52:15  Isaiah 53:1  Isaiah 53:3  Isaiah 53:4  Isaiah 53:4-5  Isaiah 53:6  Isaiah 53:7-8  Isaiah 53:9  Isaiah 53:10a  Isaiah 53:11  Isaiah 53:12b  Isaiah 53:12c | Acts 3:13  Romans 15:20-21  John 12:37, Romans 10:16  Mark 9:12  Matthew 8:16-17  Matthew 26:67, 1st Peter 2:24, John 1:29  1st Peter 2:25  Acts 8:32-33, Matthew 26:63; 27:12-14  1st Peter 2:22-23  John 18:11  Romans 5:19  Luke 22:37; 23:33  Luke 23:34, Hebrews 9:28 |