

The Story's Not Over



collide.

Read: Mark 5:35-43

This is a scene,

a devastating, hard, no-one-should-ever-have-to-experience-this kind of scene. I have had this experience before. It's one of the worst things I have ever, ever, ever had to watch a family walk through. This kind of loss blindsides you, messes with all your theology and no amount of "religious" answers bring peace. The lights turn off and stay that way for a very long time. Bitterness has the great potential to take root and bloom. No amount of blessing you experienced before this moment talks you into getting out of bed and trying to see light and "do" joy.

Jesus walked into this kind of scene where people were full fledged mourning the loss of a child. They even called in the professionals. In this culture, people actually hired professional mourners who came in and wailed for you so that when you ran out of energy to wail and lament and mourn, they did it for you. And Jesus walks in and has the audacity to say, "...*the child is not dead but asleep.*" Of course those present laughed at the ridiculousness of such a statement. Pro mourners know death when they see it. That's their job.



The Story's Not Over

With Jesus,
the story is never over.

Jesus went into where she lay, took her by the hand and said, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" And you know what? This twelve year old girl who died, stood up and walked.

In that moment when Jesus gave her life, He knew what would happen to His.

The Bible says they were astonished. They were astonished because they were living as though the story was over. Some of us live like our story is over in our

marriage,
body,
career,
diagnoses,
dreams.

We live like the story ends in death, but it ends in resurrection. The same thing Jesus did for this girl, He will do for us. He will show Himself to be powerful and personal in our lives even to the very end, and even then again.

See with Jesus, the story is never over.¹²

12 Cole, R. A. (1994). Mark. In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), New Bible commentary: 21st century edition (4th ed., p. 960). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

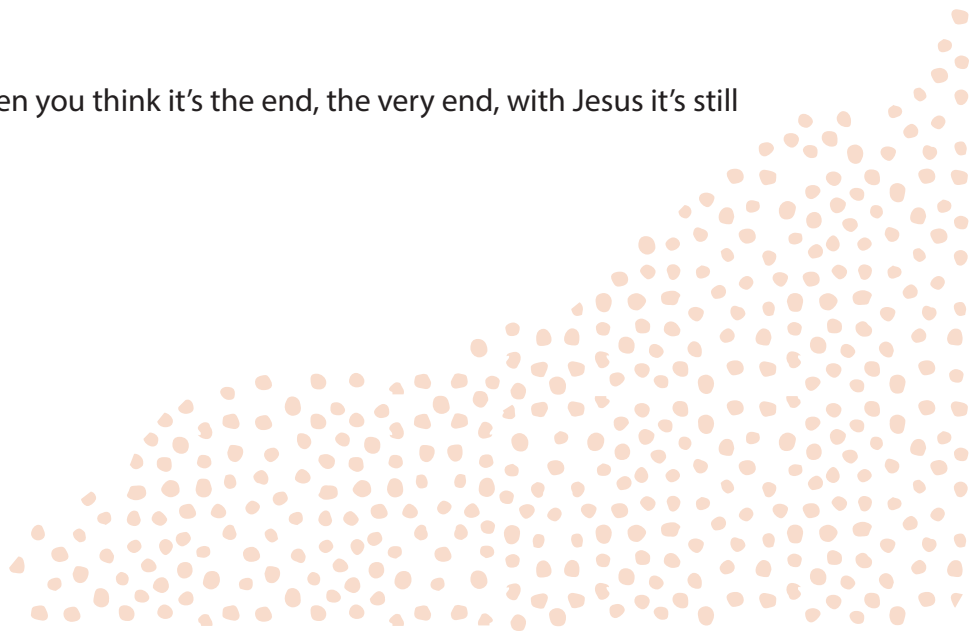
Reflect

How are you living like the story is already over?

When you think about the idea that with Jesus the story is never over, how does that encourage you in the chapter you currently find yourself?

Where do you need a resurrection?

How does the idea that even when you think it's the end, the very end, with Jesus it's still not over?



The Story's Not Over

Ruminate

Read the following Scriptures that assure us that with Jesus, the story is never over, and claim their truths by filling in the blanks.

*⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" **Mark 16:5-7***

The tomb is not the end of the story.

*⁶"He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" **Luke 24:6-7***

The crucifixion is not the _____ chapter.

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." **John 11:25***

Jesus was not only resurrected, He Himself is the _____.

*By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. **1 Corinthians 6:14***

By the same _____ Jesus was raised, you and I will be raised.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. **1 Peter 1:3***

The story is not over and so we have a living _____.

*⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. **Romans 6:8-11***

Death no longer has _____ over Jesus and death no longer has _____ over you.

The story is not over with

cancer
a death certificate
divorce
miscarriage
the loss of a dream
public humiliation
betrayal
failure
addiction
bankruptcy
man's curse
a dark road
or unforgiveness...

The Story's Not Over

With Jesus you can always count on **more**. You can always count on **power**. You can always count on **life**.

So you can always *hope*. Never lose *hope*. Never let someone else tell you the story is over. Never let depression determine the plot. Never let mess-ups tell you, "Why bother?" Never let one bad chapter write the rest. Never believe God's a no-show. Never grieve without belief.

Your timeline is not God's.
Your doubt is not gospel.
Your fear is not prophetic.
Your worry is not the boss.
Your past is not your future.
Your period placement is not the end.

Look, you can either be a woman who buys in with all she's got, that God truly has the power to resurrect what feels dead and what is dead, or you don't. Sure, it's radical. Sure, it's crazy. Sure, it seems impossible...but so does Jesus raising a twelve year old, and so does Jesus walking out of a tomb because of that same power and promising it to you and me.

Being a woman of *faith* believes that though you might not have gotten your healing, you will get your resurrection. Though you feel like your appeal was unmet, doesn't mean God isn't coming. Though you might not be able to see Him, doesn't mean He's not here. Though you doubt it's possible, doesn't mean you're right.

Though you feel like it's devastatingly over, that might just be grounds for a

Triumphant,

amazing,

powerful,

no way,

not possible,

life giving,

holy cow,

Jesus just showed up,

personally and powerfully,

doing what I never imagined,

right smack dab in my

greatest hour of need.

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Respond

Pray this prayer with me today.

Oh Jesus the Resurrection, the One who brings life over and over and over again, bring life where I worry there's death and despair, sickness and worry, fear and what looks like closed chapters. God, by faith and in hope, I am counting on you to collide with my life and resurrect and redeem the stories I gave up on. God, I stopped showing up to hope and I started giving into the ways brokenness and sin try to put an end to things. No more, God. I want to buy into the truth that you bring back what is dead, you heal what is sick, you make possible what looks impossible. So, God, I'm turning in my whole story and my whole life and I'm choosing faith over fear. Now, Jesus hold all the power I need. Resurrect my hope and my faith and help me to live every moment trusting you to be personal and powerful.

I pray this in the name of Jesus, who collides with hurting and sick women and girls and brings them healing and life.

Amen.

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