



Monday Matters

February 23, 2015

What's Your Story?

Many years ago I was listening to a sports talk show hosted by Lee Hamilton in Phoenix where we were living at the time. I had tuned in early to the program and found they were having a contest. It didn't require answering any questions but two people were to win tickets to a Phoenix Suns basketball game. I called in and waited and waited. It was close to the end of the program and suddenly Lee Hamilton was on the line and told me I had won two tickets to the game. I also found out I was to be part of the halftime program at the game and would participate in yet another contest.

A friend and I arrived at the game and sat in our assigned seats. Ten minutes before halftime I heard my name over the loudspeaker and was instructed to come down to the main floor. There I received instructions to the contest. At one end of the court was to be an empty wheelbarrow and a shovel. At the other end of the court would be another wheelbarrow filled with real paper money. The object was to run to the other end, fill the shovel full of money and deposit it into the other wheelbarrow without physically touching the money. We were given 3 minutes to transfer as much money as we could without holding it down with any part of our body. At the end of 3 minutes we could keep all the money we transferred from one wheelbarrow to the other.



That was not an easy task! In the end they took us back to the locker room, counted the money, put it in a Phoenix Suns duffle bag and gave it to us. My efforts that evening netted close to \$200. I was excited.

Throughout our lives we have many experiences that we relate to people in the form of stories. People love to hear a great story...one filled with rescue, romance, and unrelenting love...one filled with courage, heroism, and ultimate triumph. Stories like this resonate with something deeper inside all of us. Why? Because there is a greater story that can be a part of us. It is a story that makes the most unreal claims in history real. It is a story which uniquely and powerfully provides hope, meaning and answers to all of life's great questions. It is a story of transformation.

The greatest story we can relate is not going to a basketball game and being part of a contest, winning almost \$200. The story is about Jesus who came as a babe in a manger and 33 years later died for each one of us on a cross. The story is about how He can take a broken life and transform it into a new life with hope and meaning.

We have a story to tell to the world around us, one about Jesus' love and how He brings hope and peace into our lives. Let's share that story, the greatest story ever told, with everyone.

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We Are The Reason



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