



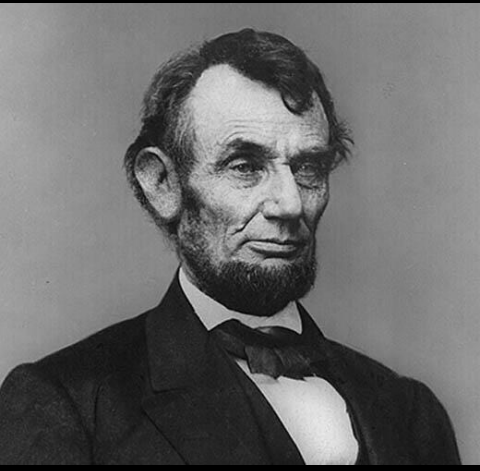
THE POWER OF STORY

a blog post by @aaron_hogan

MY



“In the role of a story-teller I regard Mr. Lincoln as without an equal. His power of mimicry and his manner of recital were unique. His countenance and all his features seemed to take part in the performance. As he neared the pith or point of the story every vestige of seriousness disappeared from his face. His gray eyes sparkled; a smile seemed to gather up, curtain-like, the corners of his mouth; his frame quivered with suppressed excitement; and when the nub of the story – as he called it – came, no one’s laugh was heartier than his.”



~ William H. Herndon and Jesse W. Weik, *Herndon’s Life of Lincoln*, p. 310

THE BOOK OF

ACTS

THE STORY CONTINUES



Raphael 1483 – 1520, *The Healing of the Lame Man*
bodycolour on paper on canvas (340 × 540 cm) — c. 1516
Museum Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Acts 3

⁶Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have,
but what I do have I give you.
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
walk.”



Disney

UNLIKELY SPORTING
EVENT OUTCOME
DURING COLD WAR
TENSIONS

Acts 3

“Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

Acts 3

¹⁷“Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...”

Today's Message

The Plot thickens:

What a difference the Holy Spirit makes!

Acts 4:1-31

The Arrest

Acts 4:1-4

¹The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ²They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.



The Question

Acts 4:5-7

⁵The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. ⁷They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"



Caiaphas

John

Alexander

others



Caiaphas

John

Alexander

others



“By what power or what name did you do this?”

Peter's Answer

Acts 4:8-11

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

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Peter's Answer

Acts 4:8-11

¹¹Jesus is

“ ‘the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.’ [Psalm 118:22]

¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no
other name under heaven given to mankind by
which we must be saved.”

“Are these the same guys?”

Acts 4:13-14

¹³When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.



The Denial of St. Peter. circa 1620-1625. Gerard Seghers.
Oil on canvas. 62 x 89 1/2 in. (157.5 x 227.3cm).
North Carolina Museum of Art via Google Cultural Institute

The Deliberation

Acts 4:15-17

¹⁵So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶“What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

Follow the logic...

Acts 4:15-17

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Nonsense + Sense \neq Sense

The Verdict

Acts 4:18

¹⁸Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Yeah, like that's gonna work!

Acts 4:19-20

¹⁹But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.

²⁰As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Threatening words

Acts 4:21-22

²¹After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. ²²For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

Next Scene – back with the disciples

Acts 4:23-24a

²³On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

The Prayer – part 1 (Affirming God’s Sovereignty)

Acts 4:24b-26

“Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

“ ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
²⁶The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’ [Psalm 2:1-2]



The Prayer – part 1 (Affirming God's Sovereignty)

Acts 4:27-28

²⁷Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.



CONCA, Sebastiano

Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane
1746

Oil on canvas, 64 x 47 cm
Pinacoteca, Vatican

The Prayer – part 2 (The Ask)

Acts 4:29-30

²⁹Now, Lord, consider their threats and

The Prayer – part 2 (The Ask – WHAT?!?!)

Acts 4:29-30

²⁹Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

God's Answer (Amen and "Let's Go!")

Acts 4:31

³¹After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Gospel Reflection

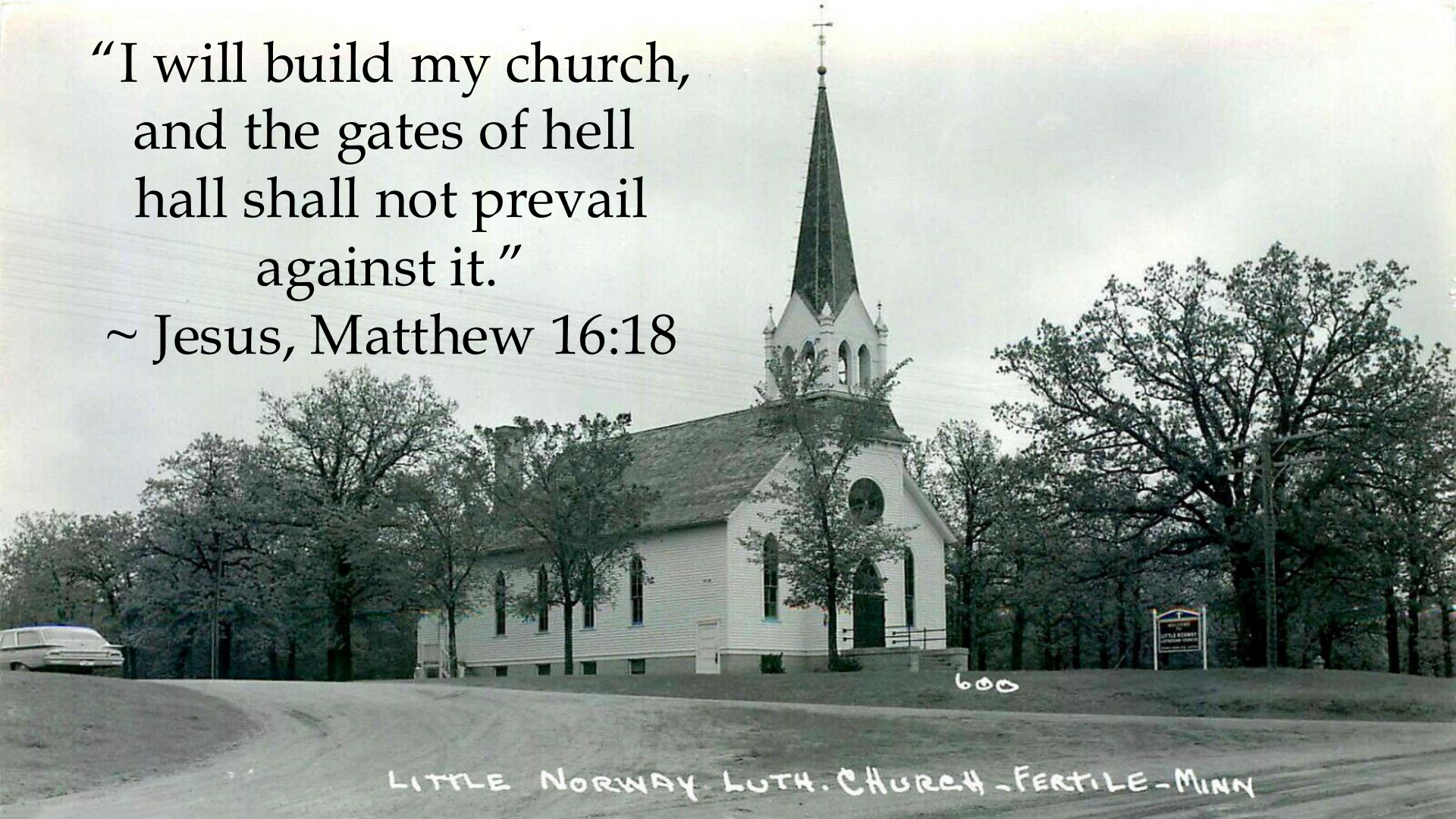


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LITTLE NORWAY LUTH. CHURCH - FERTILE - MINN

“I will build my church,
and the gates of hell
hall shall not prevail
against it.”

~ Jesus, Matthew 16:18



LITTLE NORWAY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FERTILE - MINN