

EPIC *The Story*

V. Chapter Four and the Story continues – The Hero... and Happily Ever After

Hero and Lover

The ultimate element of the plot of every great story is the hero and his/her love. This is the plot of our Story, too. *John 3:16, John 15:9, I John 3:1, 16*

- Why is it that in many stories the hero must die to win the freedom of his lover, his friends or his country?
 - William Wallace (Braveheart), Jack Dawson (Titanic), Aslan (Lion, Witch and Wardrobe), Maximus (Gladiator)
- The Hero in our Story had to die, too – *Matthew 20:28*
- There was a price for our disobedience, our captivity in the Kingdom of Darkness – *Colossians 1:13-14*
- The life, death and resurrection of Jesus answer once and for all the question of God's heart toward us

Act Four - The Kingdom Restored

How does the Story end?

And they lived happily ever after... These may be the most beautiful and haunting words in the entire library of mankind.

- Every story has an ending. Every story.
- Your time on this stage will come to an end.
- And then what? Is that the end of the Story? If so, then the Story is a tragedy.
- The Enemy wants to steal everything away from us...including our future.

Paradise Regained

When Jesus was on earth, He was always restoring things, making things new – the blind could see, the lame could walk, the deaf could hear, the dead came alive.

- Everything will be new once again – *Revelation 21:1, Isaiah 65:17, Revelation 21:5*
- Creation will be restored – Paradise will be given back to us

Together Again

The happiest endings to the best stories involve the recovery or restoration of *relationships*. *Mark 16:2-7*

- After Jesus died...He came back. It was the most stunning, unbelievable, happiest endings to a story you could possibly imagine!
- His resurrection was the first of many to come – *I Corinthians 15:20, Romans 8:29*
- And He is coming back again for the ultimate, eternal reunion – *John 14:1-3, Revelation 19:6-9*

Closing reminder

The Story God is telling – like every great story that echoes it – reminds us of three eternal truths:

- Things are not what they seem
- We are at war
- You have a crucial and wonderful role to play