

Message Series: **The Invitation: what will you do with yours?**

Message Title: **The Power of a Great Story**

Scripture Source: **Psalm 145:1-13, Romans 15:17-19**

Date: Sunday, June 24, 2018

Teacher: John Garner

How Will People Know?

Of the robust and tender love of Christ unless someone like you or me and a church like RBC, shows in deeds and speaks in words the truth of God's salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? This morning we have celebrated the ordination of Paul Smylski, and have been reminded of the profound and life changing impact of the previous generation in Paul's life...people who invested in his life with their prayers, encouragement, personal example, financial contributions to this ministry that God has used in his life and ministry development.

Paul's life was enriched by a wonderful mix of people... 'story telling servants' who helped him understand the love of Christ for him.

Many of us today can refer back to the 'story telling servants' who God used to instruct and guide us forward to become and continue as followers of Jesus.

The Invitation: Choose to be a Storytelling Servant

I love how our Ordination celebration included past and current generations, with a forward look to the future. Psalm 145:4: *"One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts."*

Each of us has a story that matters, to God and others. Never sell your story short. Understand to a meaningful degree, your story. Use the 6 words exercise to help you gain clarity. Dedicate yourself and your unique story to God and ask for opportunities to tell others what God has done in your life and what he continues to do...a story that includes how you came...or are coming to understand the love and forgiveness of Jesus, a story that includes experiencing God's power to address real issues, with wisdom and hope, a story that includes your perspective and priorities being transformed by the example of Jesus and the power of God's word responded to, a story that includes how God has guided and provided for you along the way. Friends, let us choose to be 'story telling servants' along the way.

The Transforming Power of a Great Story

Why? So that others may come to experience the power, love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:17-19 So that people, younger and older in this generation and the generation to come may personally experience the fullness of the grace and truth of Jesus. Spiritual thirst and hunger throbs and aches in many hearts, all around us. Sometimes very close to us. Let us ask God for opportunities to first of all listen to the stories of others and then, tell your story of the grace and truth of Jesus, warmly, gently, gracefully...guided by God along the way.

That is why God is looking for story telling servants, like you and me...and us! You are invited to be this kind of servant, what will you do?