

“Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it?” Mark 4:30 NLT

lectio // Mark 4:30-34

Are these questions, prayers? Are they thoughts, spoken out loud? This is red letter stuff! Mark captures, then comments. Didn't anyone tell Jesus that people want truth communicated with facts, charts and slide decks? And then for us to have a privileged purview into the mind of Christ - OMG, what is he thinking about... what's the best story for this truth? Mark later explained, “Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand. In fact, in his public ministry he never taught without using parables; but afterward, when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.” Don't we do it exactly backwards? I mean, don't we explain truth up front (public) and then tell the best backstories to our friends (private). Why do we do that? Why do business leaders give these heady, fact and graph laden presentations with funders, but then tell the good stuff with their own staff. The quotes, the passion, the WHY - is all private. Even our sermons are filled with facts, figures, proofs and outlined logic, but with friends we talk about being a failure at gardening or putting Ikea furniture together backwards! Jesus told the story because that's really how people learn. Well, at least they are able to re-tell the truth they've learned without prompts or notes.

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

As I am reading and processing the writings in the Bible, I am both listening and remembering. Sometimes you'll remind me of something very happy, sometimes it's sad and sometimes it's about things I really messed up! I know I'm wired differently than others, and I love a good story, but they honestly help me find you, your character and where I fit in your plans. Your words lift me, comfort me as well as correct me and direct me. Thank you for your story, the only one that counts.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root