

The Twists & Turns of my God Story

Ps. Denis Kiima – 30 April 2017
(How God's Story changes My Story) Series
Sermon Notes



The month of April being our Easter month we have been looking at the Cross-and How God's Story Changes My Story. Each one of us has a story!!! Most of the time it's a selfish one, one where we feel we can figure out our own lives and so we do life the way we know how and we don't care what God thinks about it. It's **MY** Story!!! When we begin to care about what God thinks and what influence he should have in our lives it becomes His Story changing our story.

Today I am going to add my little two cents to all the stories we have heard this month and share how God's Story changed my story. I am going to share from the subject; **The Twists and Turns of My God Story.**

I want to talk to those like me in this place that has known the lord for some time and you realize that;

- 1. The fact that you are born again does not mean that you are immune from the tough times of life.**
- 2. Being born again does not exempt you from struggling with sin, with fear with bad attitudes...**

The fact that God's story has changed your story, makes you a target for tests and trials, Twists and turns that will seek to test what you believe.

Things will happen in your life that will make you wonder where God is. And yet the fact that God seems absent does not mean that he is absent.

Each of our God Stories will have **Twists and Turns** that we must brace ourselves for if we are to stay the course of our God stories.

I will break my story up into several parts and then explain the Twist or turn in each Part.

I have been born again for 24 years that is like $\frac{3}{4}$ of my life.

Before God's Story changed my story I;

- I stole for Justice ("John Doe" ...tell short story)
- Engineered funds intended for home groceries to go play video games.
- escaping from school to go watch movies. Which I did and I watched them all; action Romance, red, green, and Blue movies, I watched them all!!

I got to know the lord when I was 14. I was stuck academically. My grades were low because I hardly made time to read my books because of escaping to watch movies. So, my big idea was to get saved and pray to God for my grades to improve and Just like that I would have sorted my problem out. So it was not that I felt guilty about my sin. I had accepted Christ for selfish reasons.

I did not pass my exams and I had to repeat the class.

Have you ever prayed for something and absolutely needed God to answer and he did not answer? When I didn't pass my exams, it triggered many questions of Why? Didn't they say God can and will fix everything??? But I learnt a life lesson that God has not saved me so he can hand to me everything I ask.

Many times, we are so into our agenda that we forget that God is not in our lives to fix what we want. God is after fulfilling his purposes/his kingdom in and through our lives.

1. SAVED FOR A GOD PURPOSE & NOT MY AGENDA:

The first Twist and Turn of my God's story was realizing that I am **SAVED FOR A GOD PURPOSE**. And it was not about me but about God.

- We need to get over sulking about what God did not do when we wanted him to do.
- God didn't send the money when I needed it
- it healing us when we wanted to get healed
- I prayed for the life of my loved one and God didn't keep them alive.

GOD IS GOD AND HE WILL DO WHAT HE PLEASURES NOT WHAT WE WANT.

This does not mean that God does not love us and is not interested in what concerns us. It means that God is like any good father. As I dad I just don't give my kids everything they ask or cry for. Sometimes they need to go through the pain that I need them to go through in order for them to learn the lesson I need them to learn. I need them to learn to work for and others are just not good for the yet. God saves us for a reason bigger than just our daily sustenance and needs yet we seem to want to use him to get by on our daily sustenance.

I realize now that I cheapen my God Story when I make it about;

- Paying my bills
- Driving expensive cars and life being good.

Moving along with my story when I realized that God had an agenda for my life, I began to wonder what that was. The question was; how does one figure out what their Life's purpose is? I read a book by TD Jakes "Maximize the moment" In it I read God has created me to contribute to building his Kingdom here on earth and when I do that I am fulfilling his Purpose for my life. Here are some pointers on how I begun figuring out what God's purpose for my life was;

- a) Its things/ set of things he has given me with the ability to do
- b) I find fulfillment in doing them
- c) Only I can do them the way I do them

The journey of trying to figure that out got me trying a lot of things. I tried "Taekwondo" among other things! I gave up on that after a week. I could not stand the rigorous exercises. But then slowly by slowly I began to discover what I really liked and what I was good at. At about 18 or 19 I knew I was leader, I knew I was musical and I knew was a communicator. That is what God had gifted me with and I went on to pursue mass communication after high school and kept on singing.

Fast-forward a few years after school. I had a job I liked. I travelled all around the world. I "humbly" tell people that it's easier for me to say where I have not been in the world than to say where I have been. I had a great pay. I did what I loved to do (sing, produce music, communicate)- Life was good. During that time, I met my wife and we got married. Had our first Child, travelled with her doing what we loved doing. We had travelled back and forth for 10 years and felt we needed to settle and raise the family. So we did. My job had to change. Not that it was a bad job, it needed me to preach and teach every Sunday. I was to Pastor a congregation where most of the congregants were at least 10 years older than me and above. The pay was till great, the task was unpleasant. I felt unqualified, totally not gifted at it plus the challenges of leading a congregation are just too much especially when you have no passion for it. For two years I pastored this congregation. I grew to love them they loved me too. I learned to preach every Sunday morning even if I did not like it. God had used the time to teach me to speak and communicate.

Here came the second Twist. It had been two years of pastoring this congregation when I realized, it was time to move on. This is hard to describe but there is a sense you get when that time comes you realize;

- This is not your place anymore,
- You will not grow any more if you kept going,
- There is more that you need to be doing out there,

What I could not get my head around was;

- a) This pays my bills so if I left what happens to my kids school, well being, Up keep, (fuel, medical, airtime etc.)
- b) Was there anything greater than pastoring this great church? The Privilege? The status?
- c) What if I left and totally failed?

2. THREATENED BY FEAR;

Just because God has called you, does not mean that you will not be face with fear!! **What makes most people not make progress and growth in life is fear of failing. But if you are not ready to face fear you are not ready to be what God wants you to be.**

Where God calls you will;

- Stare at you with daring eyes
- Threaten your ability to over come financially, emotionally and physically
- Take you out of your comfort zone

It takes courage to still make the move in the direction of your God story. So many people would rather remain in their normalcy. It is going to take individuals who are fearless to be all that God wants them to be. Its only people who are fearless enough that will change this country

Read Exodus 4

3. GROW THROUGH HARDSHIPS

It was not a hard message for Moses to preach to the Israelites about going to the Promised Land. Their response begun to change when Pharaoh to pursued them, it got worse in the Desert. The process of staying my God Story is uncomfortable. If life was easy anyone could do it. God does not have easy assignments. Any assignment he gives you will need him to help you through. As soon as you begin to pursue your God story hell wakes up. No body has hardships doing nothing. The moment you begin to do something about what God wants you to do then Hell wakes up.

4. IT'S WITH THE MIND THAT I SERVE THE LORD.

It takes a while of listening to what God says about you before you start to believe it.

What God says about us is shocking!!! We might think God does not know who he is talking too. He over looks our weaknesses. God looks beyond our mistakes. A dream is God telling me how my story ends. If you get evil thoughts they are not from God. We manifest the thoughts that we let into our minds. Be careful who you listen to.