

**"THE GREATEST STORY"****Date:** November 17, 2019**Speaker:** Danny Clinton

**Def: Lore** - A body of traditions and knowledge on a subject, or held by a particular group, typically passed from person to person by word of mouth.

**Also known as Fairy tales...**

- It's these memorable and often well-known stories that most enthrone deep warnings or morals in a way that can be easily passed down through the generations.

**Story History... Little Red - Riding Hood, or Cap or Hat**

- The tale of "Little Red Riding Hood" is of European origin and has had many re-tellings, possibly as far back as the tenth century...
- The classic tale of a little girl pursued by a wily and evil wolf while on her way to visit her grandmother has been told in many versions.
- Its origins can be traced back to the 10th century to several European folk tales, including one from Italy called "The False Grandmother," later written among others by Italo Calvino in the Italian Folktales collection.
- The story has been changed considerably in various retellings and subjected to numerous modern adaptations and readings. Other names for the story are: "Little Red Riding hood," "Little Red Cap," or simply "Red Riding Hood".
- The fairy tale made a long journey. It evolved as a spoken story in France, Austria and northern Italy before being written down by French author Charles Perrault in the 1600s, and was later re-told in its most familiar form by the Brothers Grimm, 200 years ago

**Question: What's the core message of this story?**

- "The story's overriding message is to be careful who you trust."
- And here in lies the story's truest enduring power, for it speaks to something very real and lasting...

**"Trust is a human need."**

- (Vs) *1 Kings 13:11-25* – “The Young and Old Prophet”
- On the topic of trusting others, King David said,

(Vs) *Psalms 118:8-9* – “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.”

- David spoke from experience, having been betrayed many times by those close to him...
- Instead of becoming bitter or regarding all people as inherently untrustworthy and not worth his time, he learned and taught a simple truth: “Sinful people will fail us, but we can always trust in God.”
- David’s son, King Solomon, learned that lesson well and added to it, saying...

(Vs) *Proverbs 3:5* – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.”

**Both of these men speak to the reality that... “Only God can meet our very real need for trust without fail.”**

- And so, it is precisely because we know that God will never fail us that we can trust others.

**“When we know that no matter what men do to us, God will always be there, faithful and true and trustworthy, it is easier to handle betrayal or disappointments.”**

- Our ultimate security is in Him, so we are free to trust others and experience the joy it brings in spite of how they may hurt us. But, this can be a difficult thing to put into practice; particularly if we feel like God has betrayed our trust by allowing us to be hurt, we need to be reminded of His truth and comforted by His love.

**Reading God's Word with attention to the way He describes His own faithfulness is a helpful way to build trust in Him.**

(Vs) *Psalms 118:6* – “The Lord is on my side, I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

- I love the first part of this verse, but it’s Fairy Tales like Little Red Riding Hood that remind us that “man” can do a lot!
- That’s why these stories have been so timelessly effective.
- This is also why a foundational trust in God is of so much importance!

**“We are wise to take time to get to know others and not heedlessly give them our complete trust.”**

- Jesus even did this when He withdrew from the crowds at times...

*(Vs) John 2:23-25 – Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs that He was doing. But Jesus on His part did not entrust Himself to them, because He knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for He Himself knew what was in man.*

- **Side Note:** “Sometimes it is difficult to tell the difference between being wise about our trust and being overly self-protective out of past hurt or fear.”
- If we find ourselves reluctant to trust anyone to any extent, we are wise to do some introspection and, if necessary, ask God to heal our wounded hearts.

**It of course bears saying that, “As we learn to trust others, we should continually strive to be trustworthy ourselves.”**

#### **God’s Word says...**

- We should be known as a safe place for others.

*(Vs) Prov. 3:29 – “Do not plan evil against your neighbor, who dwells trustingly beside you.”*

- We should be known for our ability to keep confidences.

*(Vs) Prov. 11:13 – “Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.”*

- We should be known for our honesty.

*(Vs) Prov. 12:22 – “Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.”*

- We should be known for our willingness to suffer with a friend.

*(Vs) Prov. 17:17 – “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”*

#### **At times, we all let others down...**

- But we should always strive to be trustworthy...

*(Vs) Eph. 4:1-2 – “...walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.”*

- All of these actions contribute to being trustworthy...

**Even though others will fail us at times, and we ourselves are not always trustworthy, we can and should still trust people to varying degrees.**

- “Without trust, true relationship is impossible”

### **Relationship is THE Story!**

*(Vs) Jer. 17:7-8 – “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”*

**Can you see that so much of these stories that live from generation to generation are filled with questions which are answered by the Greater Story being told by God?**

- This is the greatest story ever Enthroned throughout the generations! ...
- Passing on life to those inheriting death... Love to those inheriting hate, and trust to those inheriting lies...