



# The Cracked Pot Creed

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- I AM NOT ENOUGH
- I AM NOT SUPPOSED TO BE ENOUGH
- I AM A FRAGILE DIRT POT
- I AM MADE FOR ONE PURPOSE, WHICH IS ...
- **TO CONTAIN, DEMONSTRATE AND RELEASE THE LIFE AND POWER OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**
- **SO THAT THE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT JESUS IS LORD AND GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL!!**

<sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves. 2

Corinthians 4: 6-7



# **A Story About Stories**

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# Once Upon A Time

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- Sum up the teaching style of Jesus in one word
- Parables – Jesus taught timeless, life-changing spiritual truth using stories
- The only time he got into matters of detailed doctrine was when the Jews wanted to argue
- Even then, he often framed His answer in stories like ....



# Why Do You Suppose He Did This

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- Because our brain LOVES stories, our brain is much more fully engaged with a story than with an algebra problem
- Our brain remembers things we learn from stories better than things we learn from lectures or reading tables of figures.
- Our brains love watching stories unfold – movies or books or athletics – and we love happy endings. We crave happy endings as assurance that ultimately we can be safe.



# As A Matter of Fact

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- Our brain – consciously or unconsciously – can only make decisions after it converts them into a story.
- You may think you make your decision after doing lots of research and analysis based on facts and logic that take place in the analytical left side of your brain
- But at the very last minute, your brain shoves all of that data to the emotional right side and says, “So, how do I feel about this? Will this give me my happy ending?”

# The Hero's Journey



**Joseph Campbell**

- Hard-wired in the thinking of all human cultures.
- A central character who is not enough (Hero)
- Reluctantly drawn into a situation
- Faces challenges, discovers resources
- Perseveres through it all
- Finally achieves the happy ending
- It's everywhere .....



# You Are Living Your Story

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- Shouldn't be surprised, then, to learn your brain sees every aspect of your life as a chapter in your own Hero's journey.
- You often feel like you are not enough
- You almost always have to deal with "stuff" even though you don't want to
- You encounter obstacles while you are trying to find solutions
- Working, hoping, praying to find that happy ending so you can take a breath and rest, feeling safe and at peace once again.



# And The Story Goes On and On

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- You can categorize most events in your life as somehow relating to your personal Hero's journey, searching for the next happy ending to solve whatever problem is facing you so that you can feel safe and rest
- A couple of weeks ago I was discussing the details and challenges of my life with God, explaining to Him how tired I was and how much I needed a breakthrough to fix things





# And I Heard Him Clearly Say..

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- You are struggling because you are confused
- You have things completely backwards
- You are NOT the Hero in this story, and it is NOT your job to fix anything or find the happy ending here



# Greatest Story Ever Told

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- **I AM** THE HERO IN YOUR STORY
- I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN YOUR HERO
- I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WORKING IN YOUR LIFE
- AND I WILL BRING YOU TO THE HAPPY ENDING YOUR HEART HUNGERS FOR
- AT THIS MOMENT I AM REWIRING YOUR BRAIN TO SEE YOUR LIFE AS **MY STORY**, THE STORY OF **MY LIFE BEING LIVED THROUGH YOU**



# And Then I Saw My Hero

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- Revealed in Revelation 19:11-16
- **11** And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. **12** His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. **13** *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.



# Rev. 19 continued

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- **14** And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. **15** From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will [d]rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the [e]wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. **16** And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."



## So, With Apologies to Joseph Campbell

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- Jesus is the Hero, He is my Hero, and He is not just riding to my rescue, He has scooped me up and sat me on His Huge White Horse and I am riding with HIM as He engages the enemy with His power and majesty and removes every obstacle and makes all things right, so that I might see and KNOW that all is well and I am safe because Jesus is Lord and He is mine and I am His, living in His Story!!!



# What Story Are Living Now?

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- Where are you being pressured to be the Hero?
- What are your challenges?
- Where is it you KNOW you are not enough?
- Where do you not feel safe?
- Are you feeling tired and overwhelmed
- Are you afraid the movie will not end well?
- You are telling yourself the wrong story
- Jesus wants to rewire your brain right now



# I Love To Tell The Story

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I love to tell the story of unseen things  
above, Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and  
His love; I love to tell the story, because I  
know 'tis true, It satisfies my longings as  
nothing else would do. I

I love to tell the story,  
'Twill be my theme in glory,  
To tell the old, old story  
Of Jesus and His love.



# Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY