

The Five Great Truths of Life ***“I Am Small” * November 30, 2008***

I. Christmas – the story of the ‘Grand Miracle’

A. Take Jesus out of Christmas and what are you left with?

B. To live life well, we must have a life philosophy that meshes with the way _____.

C. What are the five truths of life? I am...

D. For those who believe in Christmas, do the five truths of life get the last word over us?

GREAT TRUTH OF LIFE #1: I AM SMALL

II. How are we dwarfed by life?

A. We are dwarfed by _____.

B. We are dwarfed by the _____.

C. We are dwarfed by _____.

D. We are dwarfed by _____.

E. We are dwarfed by _____ & _____.

III. There are Three Ways We Can Respond to this Great Truth

A. I can shout back at the universe that I am not small, then try to prove it by building an _____, a legacy of my _____.

B. I can shrink back from the universe, until at last I collapse in on myself in _____.

C. I can reach out beyond the universe to Maker of it all, and find in Him alone the _____ of my life.

Example of One Who Shouted At The Universe: Walt Disney

1. How did he do this?



2. How do we do this?

Example of One Who Shrank From The Universe: David Foster Wallace

1. For all his wit, what did Wallace see about life?



2. Why is his story tragic?

Example of One Who Reached Beyond The Universe To Find Her Maker: Gianna Jessen

1. What is inspiring about her story?



2. What great truth of eternity has Gianna learned?

IV. Time To Unpack It All

What does the Christmas story tell us the great God did?

What do I have to do to make sure I belong to Jesus?

Which of the three roads will I take?

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I. Christmas – the story of the ‘Grand Miracle’

A. *Take Jesus out of Christmas and what are you left with?*

A hangover, a messy house, a mountainous credit card bill and 3 long months of winter

B. *To live life well, we must have a life philosophy that meshes with the way life really is.*

C. *What are the five truths of life? I...*

Am Small, Selfish, Stupid, I Suffer, and Am Short-Lived

D. *For those who believe in Christmas, do the five truths of life get the last word over us?*

No – there are five great truths of eternity which trump them – and therein is the good news.

GREAT TRUTH OF LIFE #1: I AM SMALL

II. How are we dwarfed by life?

A. *We are dwarfed by humanity.*

B. *We are dwarfed by the universe.*

C. *We are dwarfed by time.*

D. *We are dwarfed by possibilities.*

E. *We are dwarfed by disaster & death.*

III. There are Three Ways We Can Respond to this Great Truth

A. *I can shout back at the universe that I am not small, then try to prove it by building an empire, a legacy of my greatness.*

B. *I can shrink back from the universe, until at last I collapse in on myself in despair.*

C. *I can reach out beyond the universe to Maker of it all, and find in Him alone the meaning of my life.*

Example of One Who Shouted At The Universe: Walt Disney



1. How did he do this?

He ran full-tilt to the day he died, accomplishing great things. But he abandoned a childhood faith he once had, and thought that life was all on his shoulders.

2. How do we do this?

So many people spill their lives in the exhausting pursuit of building an empire, or trying to secure their future from all threats, or of creating some kind of legacy which they can hold up to the universe and say, “See, my life matters. I’m not small! You’ll not get me!” But the universe will laugh at you.

Example of One Who Shrank From The Universe: David Foster Wallace



1. For all his wit, what did Wallace see about life?

From his essay: “Shipping Out” he wrote this: “There’s something about a mass-market luxury cruise that is unbearably sad. On board the Nadir (especially at night, when all the ship’s structured fun and reassurance and gaiety ceased) I felt despair. It’s close to what people call dread or angst, but it’s not these things quite. It’s more like wanting to die in order to escape the unbearable sadness of knowing I’m small and weak and selfish and going, without doubt, to die. It’s wanting to jump overboard.”

2. Why is his story tragic?

He saw life on earth as it truly is. He got it. And he wasn’t willing to sedate the pain he felt the way modern culture does, with mindless entertainment and endless noise. He was a truly authentic human life, but what tears me up is that he couldn’t peer through the universe to the other side, and find his Maker there, and find there the great truth of eternity which says that his life

mattered a very great deal. And that's the waste of it, and the tragedy.

Example of One Who Reached Beyond The Universe To Find Her Maker: Gianna Jessen



1. What is inspiring about her story?

She survived eighteen hours in a saline solution intended to kill her when she was in the womb of her mother. Gianna survived that abortion attempt and today is a beautiful thirty year old woman, a passionate follower of Jesus Christ who suffers from cerebral palsy, which she calls a 'gift from God', and who says that she wants to use her gift of life to honor God and to inspire others. Jenna believes in Christmas.

2. What great truth of eternity has Gianna learned?

Gianna is someone who knows the great truth of life that she is small, she knows that she can't even walk on her own without God's help, but because she has a relationship with a great and loving God, she understands that there is a greater truth from eternity which changes everything. The greater truth that because she belongs to Jesus her life matters to this universe far more than anyone could imagine. That in fact, in the eyes of God she is royalty, a princess of the King of kings. And it's all because of Jesus Christ. She knows the Christmas story.

IV. Time To Unpack It All

What does the Christmas story tell us the great God did?

This great and loving God didn't just dispatch angels to us to bring us a message. He himself came to us, bundled in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. The Bible says of Jesus Christ that he "...being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing [made himself small], taking the very nature of a servant...he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross." (Phil.2:6-8)

What do I have to do to make sure I belong to Jesus?

Jesus told us, and the answer is quite simple: You have to admit your smallness. "Unless you become like a little child," Jesus said, "You cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." "Blessed are the meek," he said. A person who is meek is someone intelligent enough and courageous enough to admit that they are small, and needy and not in control.

Which of the three roads will I take?